■ Saturday Special / E1
How celebrity couples celebrate Day of Hearts

■ Metro / A15
Murder suspect is first Filipina to be extradited to US

■ Super / J3
Borgy bytes

■ Sports / A27
BAP hit hard for snubbing PBA offer

■ Sports / A25
PSC cuts down nat'l pool of athletes by half

Edsa I on Feb. 25 a holiday

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has declared Feb. 25, Wednesday, a special national holiday in commemoration of the 18th anniversary of the Edsa People Power revolution.

Ms Macapagal signed Proclamation No. 549 yesterday to allow the public to have the "full opportunity to honor the memory of Edsa I with appropriate ceremonies."

She noted that the first people power revolution "restored our democratic institutions and ushered in meaningful political, social and economic reforms." ***Gil Cabacungan Jr.***

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, February 14, 2004 ★★ 86 pages / 11 sections / vol. 19 / no. 68 P15

Inquirer to cost P18

FOR THE past three years, the Philippine Daily Inquirer has carried out various cost-cutting measures to keep the cover price steady at P15. During this period, however, the peso has sharply depreciated by as much as 25 percent, jacking up production costs, particularly of imported paper.

So that PDI can continue to deliver the same quality newspaper to readers, the company has decided to raise the INQUIRER cover price to P18 starting Monday, Feb. 16. Issues from Monday to Sunday will have the same cover price.

Poe tough in movie talk

'They may not see the light of day'

By Carlito Pablo

MARIVELES, Bataan—It sounded like a line from one of his famous movies. But actor Fernando Poe Jr., the opposition coalition candidate for president, was in earnest.

In an emotional speech here on the third day of the national campaign period, Poe told a cheering crowd in Filipino that he will "never back out no matter what they do to me."

"They are mistaken in what they are doing to me," said Poe, referring to the petitions to disqualify him from the race on citizenship issues.

And then the line from the movie: "*Baka sila ang hindi na sisikatan ng araw* (It's they who won't be around to see the light of day)," he said, referring to those who questioned his citizenship. The expression means not surviving the long night.

And then to the lusty cheers of residents gathered at the people's park, he declared: "*Ang lawin na ito ay lilipad mula Mariveles hanggang* Malacañang (This hawk will soar all the way from Mariveles to Malacañang)."

The hawk reference was to his movie persona.

"*Hindi na* shooting *ito. Totoo na ito* (We're not shooting movies anymore. This is for real)," Poe also said.

ELECTION 2004

Poe, who spent a number of his childhood years in Mariveles and Pilar, added: "You

POE/ A19

EDWIN BACASMAS

A SHOW of hands beseeches Fernando Poe Jr. during his final rally on Thursday night in Angeles City, after an all-day sortie in Pampanga with his running mate Loren Legarda and his entire senatorial ticket.

GMA, Ping together in PMA reunion

By Alcuin Papa and Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—With the election campaign in full swing, politics is expected to hog the alumni homecoming today of the Philippine Military Academy.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is the guest of honor but Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita of Class '57 will deliver the keynote speech.

Having been "adopted" by Class '78 when she was still Vice President, Ms Macapagal is expected to march with its members in the parade of "cavaliers" at Borromeo Field, the highlight of today's activities.

It is expected to be a "family affair," with the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, an adoptee of Class '78, and their daughter, Luli, of Class '91 in attendance.

Like Ms Macapagal, opposition presidential candidate Panfilo Lacson, a member of PMA Class '71, will attend the homecoming.

"It will be a date. Jose Pidal will not like that," Lacson jokingly told reporters yesterday in Compostela Valley.

In a series of speeches last year at the Senate, Lacson accused Ms Macapagal's husband of using the alias Jose Pidal to open bank accounts in which to

GMA/ A21

No ruling yet on FPJ citizenship, SC insists

By Philip C. Tubeza, Carlito Pablo and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

FOR THE second day in a row, the Supreme Court denied rumors that it had reached a decision on the controversial disqualification case against opposition coalition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr.

The high court's public information office issued a terse "news advisory" to quash the second round of rumors, a day after the high tribunal invited four eminent lawyers to serve as "friends of the court" in the case.

But at a news briefing with reporters in Legazpi City on Thursday night, presidential candidate Raul Roco, a former president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, said there were strong indications the high court would declare that Poe is not a natural-born citizen, and thus is unqualified to seek the presidency. *(See related story on Page A19.)*

The high court advisory read: "The SC public information office is issuing this statement to dispel rumors that the court had voted 8-5 to grant the petitions seeking to disqualify movie actor Ronald Allan Kelly Poe Jr. (Fernando Poe Jr.) from the presidential race."

It noted that the petitions of lawyers Victorino Fornier, Maria Jeanette Tecson, Felix Desiderio and Zoilo Velez have yet to be given due course and "are still awaiting comments."

The advisory added that the court has not even acted on Roco's petition to intervene in the case while a third petition, filed by a certain Juan Paqueco, remains undocketed because of the petitioner's failure to pay the corresponding docket fees.

The high court's spokesperson, Ismael Khan Jr., said the high

NO RULING/ A19

Be faithful, bishops tell those in love

By Blanche S. Rivera

BEFORE GOING on a special date with your spouse or significant other, here's an important Valentine message from your bishops: Be faithful. And love each other like God loves His children.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines stressed that "faithfulness is necessary for the happiness and well-being of those involved in loving relationships."

The group of some 120 active and retired bishops all over the country said that love is a fundamental and innate vocation of hu-

BE FAITHFUL/ A20

Battered wife, spared from death, is free

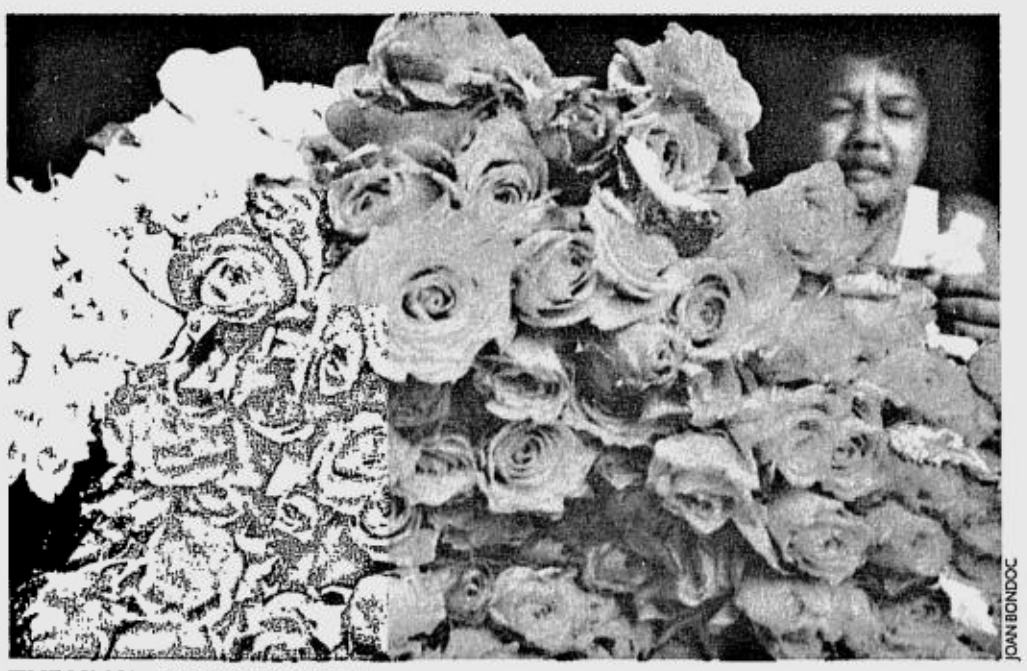
By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

ORMOC CITY—The battered wife who killed her husband eight years ago, and whom the Supreme Court has spared from lethal injection, enjoyed her first day of regained freedom with her loved ones.

Marivic Genosa, 44, was released from the Bureau of Corrections on Wednesday. She spent the whole of Thursday with her 8-year-old daughter, her mother and a younger brother, together with some close kin in Metro Manila who had kept in constant touch with her while she was behind bars.

"They had a get-together party and they were even planning to

BATTERED/ A21



JOAN BONDOC

THE HIGH COST OF LOVING
Bargain seekers who usually source their floral requirements from the flower market in Dimasalang, Sampaloc, near the Dangwa bus terminal are in for a jolt. A dozen roses which cost P50 are now selling at P300. But then Valentine's is a red-letter day not only for lovers but also for business.

Old grading system revived; 70 is passing

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE EDUCATION department has recalled a department order it issued last year imposing a new grading system that is said to be wreaking havoc on teachers and pupils in public schools.

In DepEd Order No. 4 issued Feb. 12, Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus rescinded an earlier order fixing the passing mark for pupils at 75 and reinstated the old passing mark of 70 this school year.

The lowest mark that may appear in a report card remains 65.

De Jesus appears to have backtracked after public school students reportedly flunked under the new performance-based grading system imposed during

OLD GRADING/ A20

Drilon urges new Comelec commissioner to quit

By Christine O. Avendaño and Martin P. Marfil

SENATE President Franklin Drilon yesterday called on Victorino Garcillano, one of two newly appointed Commission on Elections commissioners, to voluntarily step down amid allegations that he was involved in a massive poll fraud scheme during the 1995 elections.

"Garcillano should voluntarily resign to enable the Comelec to regain its credibility which is most critical at this time," Drilon said in a phone interview.

Drilon said he also received information from former Comelec commissioners that Garcillano's "performance in the Comelec was less than sterling."

Reelectionist opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. has accused Garcillano of involvement in the infamous *dagdag-bawas* (vote-padding and shaving) scheme during the 1995 elections.

Garcillano was the Comelec regional director of Northern Mindanao when the fraud was perpetrated, which allegedly victimized Pimentel who was deprived of a Senate seat.

Garcillano has denied having been involved in any election irregularity during his stint in Northern Mindanao.

The appointment of Garcillano and Manuel Barcelona, who both assumed office only the other day, has been widely criticized because of their supposed close links to Malacañang.

Barcelona was said to have contributed "thousands of pesos" to the campaign coffers of President Macapagal-Arroyo in an earlier election.

Yesterday, the controversial new commissioners sat silently through their first en banc meeting as their colleagues discussed the problems concerning the vot-

DRILON/ A21

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread over the Eastern Visayas and Northeastern Mindanao. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/02/14/04

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

IMPASSE BROKEN

Oslo talks make progress

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE GOVERNMENT and the communist National Democratic Front have broken the impasse that threatened to scuttle their peace talks.

Luis Jalandoni, NDF panel chair, yesterday said both parties have agreed to "finish whatever we can," after the delay caused by the rebels' demand the government work for the removal of the "foreign terrorist organization" tag pinned by the United States and allied countries on the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army.

Both panels were set to take up the matter at the end of the four-day peace talks in Oslo, Norway, yesterday. They were optimistic the issue could be settled to allow for negotiations on the rest of their 20-point agenda.

"Both sides still want to achieve whatever we can even with the delay," Jalandoni told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview from Oslo. "The NDF has always wanted to achieve something substantial from the talks."

The latest round of talks nearly collapsed the other day after government negotiators refused to work on a joint resolution urging the US, the European Union, Canada and Australia to drop the CPP-NPA from their list of "foreign terrorist organizations."

Jalandoni said discussions on the five-paragraph resolution dragged on for nearly two days. The government refused to blink unless the CPP-NPA agreed to end hostilities and to stop collecting permit-to-campaign fees from candidates in the May 10 elections.

The "mood" changed, he said, only during the afternoon session on Thursday when both panels agreed to tackle the "terrorist listing" and the "accelerated work and enhanced negotiation process," the sixth item on the agenda.

"Both sides don't want to leave Oslo without accomplishing anything," he said. "We don't want a total failure."

Malacañang, meanwhile, maintained yesterday that the "foreign terrorist organization" tag on the CPP-NPA should not be a stumbling block to the peace talks.

In an interview over RMN radio, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said that if the CPP leaders were "sincere" about forging a peace pact with the government, the terrorist label should not be a hindrance.

He cited the Tamil Tiger guerrillas of Sri Lanka who pursued negotiations with their government despite being labeled a terrorist organization.

Bunye said the NDF panel could agree to first discuss "less contentious issues" with the government side just to keep the discussion moving as they seek the middle ground in difficult areas.

Presidential adviser on the peace process Teresita Deles said the four-day talks were "experiencing difficulties" but she was optimistic the government and the communists would be able to resolve the impasse that had threatened to derail the negotiations.

On another front, despite the ongoing peace talks, the authorities have made good their threat to step up operations against the NPA.

A soldier and two NPA rebels were wounded during a brief firefight with the Army's 2nd Infantry Battalion in Barangay Sta. Barbara, Bulusan, Sorsogon, on Wednesday.

Government troops were conducting operations in the area when they chanced upon at least 10 communist guerrillas led by a Commander Reboy.

The wounded rebels were identified only as Badong and Cremson, alleged members of the Bicol Regional Party Committee.

The day before, police arrested Tessie "Ka Aniway" Abellera, 52, in Barangay Parista Lupao, Nueva Ecija.

Abellera, a member of the Sangay ng Partido sa Baryo operating in Lupao, had an arrest warrant for her alleged involvement in the abduction and killing of one Honorio Gonzaga in June 2002.

Earlier this week, Avelino "Ka Toto" Palomado, 20, turned himself in, surrendering P1.2 million he was supposed to deliver to another NPA unit in Davao del Sur. ***With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.***

Gov't eyes Imelda jewels

THE GOVERNMENT wants to include former first lady Imelda Marcos' "Malacañang jewelry collection" with the forfeited ill-gotten assets of the Marcoses.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government said it would ask the Sandiganbayan to extend the forfeiture order on the $684 million Marcos Swiss deposits to include the jewelry that Imelda left in Malacañang on Feb. 25, 1986.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza said they would cite the Supreme Court's July 15, 2003 ruling that the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and wife Imelda had only $304,372 in legitimate income from 1969 to Feb. 1986.

Dagupan may make it to Guinness for longest barbecue cookout

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—After two unsuccessful bids, and a lot of *bangus* (milkfish) burning on the grill, this city may finally make it to the Guinness World Records for holding the longest barbecue cookout in the world.

A letter dated Jan. 26 from Marco Frigatti, Guinness World Records research services officer informed the city government about the city's try at setting the world record for the longest barbecue. A certificate was also sent to the city government that read: "The longest barbecue measured 1,007.56 m (3,305.64 ft) and was created by the people of Dagupan City, Philippines, on 3 May 2003 as part of the city's Bangus Festival."

However, the certificate does not automatically guarantee an entry in the book, although the "managing editors do consider all new records for potential use in the future Guinness World Records publications and products," Frigatti added.

Held on May 3, 2003, the Kalutan ed Dagupan (Barbecue in Dagupan) displayed 1,007.56 meters (3.305.64 feet) of barbecue grills lined on the main roads. More than 10,000 pieces of *bangus* were simultaneously placed on the grills and cooked by thousands of residents and guests who tried to beat Peru's record of 613 meters.

To celebrate the feat, the "longest motorcade" in Dagupan and a "mini-longest grill" will be held at the city plaza on Feb. 20. A giant replica of the Guinness certificate will also be put up at the plaza, and those who participated in last year's event may sign their names on it.

Mayor Benjamin Lim said he was proud breaking a world record. "All our hard work and sacrifices have paid off," he said, noting that the city tried to beat the record in 2002 and in 2003. "The long wait is over and it's worth it," he added.

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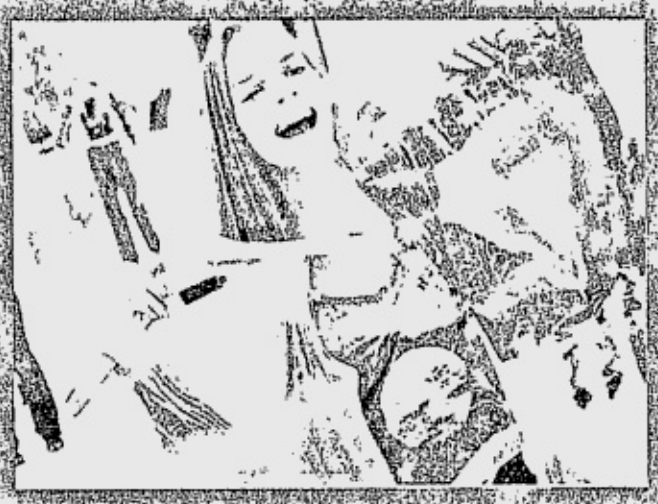

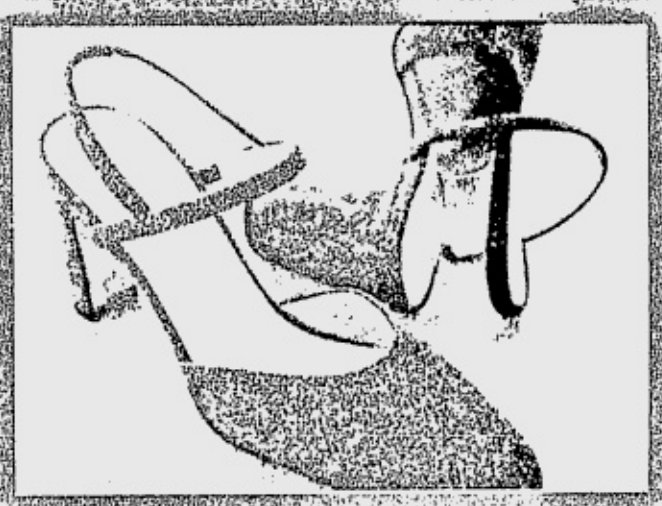

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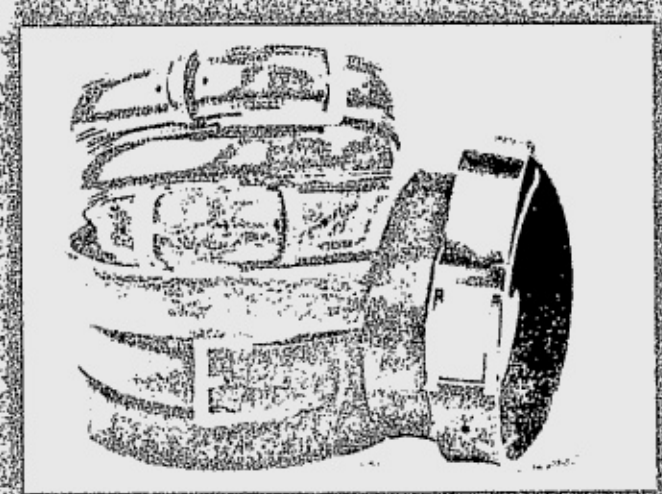

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FEBRUARY 10 to MAY 15, 2004

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Bicol's No. 3 most wanted tagged in slay

POLICE artist's sketch of Clarito Arizobal, one of the suspected killers of radioman Rowell Endrinal.

By Ronnie Lorejo and Joyce Mejillano
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—Police have identified one of the assailants of broadcaster Rowell Endrinal barely three days after the gruesome killing of the hard-hitting radio commentator.

Albay police and Task Force Guapo chief Senior Supt. Pedro U. Tango identified one of Endrinal's hitmen as Clarito Arizobal alias "Boy Zapanta," Bicol's No. 3 most wanted person.

Endrinal, fondly called "Guapo," was gunned down by unidentified armed men while on his way to his 6:30 morning program over radio station dzRC AM.

In a press conference at Camp Simeon Ola, Tango said witnesses have positively identified Arizobal as one of Endrinal's hitmen.

"He was positively identified by a witness as the one who shot Rowell Endrinal in cold blood. While another witness has confirmed the suspect's presence at the time of the incident at Purok 1, Barangay Oro Site, Legazpi City, where the murder was perpetrated," Tango said.

Arizobal, 38, a native of Barangay Gaid, Dimasalang, Masbate, carries a P250,000 reward for his capture for two counts of robbery in band with homicide before RTC Branch 49 of Cataingan, Masbate.

Tango said there were three witnesses, including a child, but his parents would not want the child to testify. But, he said, the kid's statements corroborate with those of the two witnesses.

Based on the witnesses' account, Tango said the victim was placed under surveillance by the suspects on the last week of January 2004. The five suspects were again seen at the vicinity on Feb. 8. One of them was Arizobal who returned to the place on Feb. 10, a day before the killing.

Based on the National Bureau of Investigation's autopsy report, Endrinal sustained seven gunshot wounds in various parts of his body. Recovered from the scene of the crime were three empty shells and one deformed slug from a 9MM pistol.

Tango claimed that based on intelligence reports, Arizobal was still in the Bicol region. A massive manhunt for Arizobal is in progress, he said.

According to Tango, they have considered all possible angles as to the motive of the crime, but the progress of their investigation would largely depend on the statement "Boy Zapanta" would make when he is finally captured.

"As of now, we don't know the motive yet, maybe in the process of our interrogation he can tell us," Tango said.

Road rage eyed in PUP exec killing

SAN PABLO CITY—Was it a case of road rage?

Police are pursuing this angle in the killing on Wednesday of Polytechnic University of the Philippines official Efren Turla and his driver Salvador Escanilla as they were headed home following a visit to an affiliated campus in Quezon province.

SPO4 Rolando Benedicto, chief investigation officer told the INQUIRER they are looking into the possibility that the victims got into a fight with their killers over traffic infractions since the scene of the slaying is an area where traffic is unusually heavy and disagreements among commuters and motorists are common.

The victims were on board a van along the Maharlika Highway in Barangay San Anton here at around 5:30 p.m. when two gunmen shot Turla and Escanilla from opposite sides of the highway. Police said the pair was in the company of two others who were riding motorcyles.

Turla's four companions who were not hurt—Marissa Magrina, Norberto Catumay, John Joy Claudio and Ruth Carlos—could not provide additional information to investigators because they said they were asleep when the shooting occurred. The group was on its way to Manila from Lopez, Quezon, when the incident happened. *Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Bicol's No. 3 most wanted tagged in slay

By Ronnie Lorejo and Joyce Mejillano
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—Police have identified one of the assailants of broadcaster Rowell Endrinal barely three days after the gruesome killing of the hard-hitting radio commentator.

Albay police and Task Force Guapo chief Senior Supt. Pedro U. Tango identified one of Endrinal's hitmen as Clarito Arizobal alias "Boy Zapanta," Bicol's No. 3 most wanted person.

Endrinal, fondly called "Guapo," was gunned down by unidentified armed men while on his way to his 6:30 morning program over radio station dzRC AM.

In a press conference at Camp Simeon Ola, Tango said witnesses have positively identified Arizobal as one of Endrinal's hitmen.

"He was positively identified by a witness as the one who shot Rowell Endrinal in cold blood. While another witness has confirmed the suspect's presence at the time of the incident at Purok 1, Barangay Oro Site, Legazpi City, where the murder was perpetrated," Tango said.

Arizobal, 38, a native of Barangay Gaid, Dimasalang, Masbate, carries a P250,000 reward for his capture for two counts of robbery in band with homicide before RTC Branch 49 of Cataingan, Masbate.

Tango said there were three witnesses, including a child, but his parents would not want the child to testify. But, he said, the kid's statements corroborate with those of the two witnesses.

Based on the witnesses' account, Tango said the victim was placed under surveillance by the suspects on the last week of January 2004. The five suspects were again seen at the vicinity on Feb. 8. One of them was Arizobal who returned to the place on Feb. 10, a day before the killing.

Based on the National Bureau of Investigation's autopsy report, Endrinal sustained seven gunshot wounds in various parts of his body. Recovered from the scene of the crime were three empty shells and one deformed slug from a 9MM pistol.

Tango claimed that based on intelligence reports, Arizobal was still in the Bicol region. A massive manhunt for Arizobal is in progress, he said.

According to Tango, they have considered all possible angles as to the motive of the crime, but the progress of their investigation would largely depend on the statement "Boy Zapanta" would make when he is finally captured.

"As of now, we don't know the motive yet, maybe in the process of our interrogation he can tell us," Tango said.

POLICE artist's sketch of Clarito Arizobal, one of the suspected killers of radioman Rowell Endrinal.

Road rage eyed in PUP exec killing

SAN PABLO CITY—Was it a case of road rage?

Police are pursuing this angle in the killing on Wednesday of Polytechnic University of the Philippines official Efren Turla and his driver Salvador Escanilla as they were headed home following a visit to an affiliated campus in Quezon province.

SPO4 Rolando Benedicto, chief investigation officer told the INQUIRER they are looking into the possibility that the victims got into a fight with their killers over traffic infractions since the scene of the slaying is an area where traffic is unusually heavy and disagreements among commuters and motorists are common.

The victims were on board a van along the Maharlika Highway in Barangay San Anton here at around 5:30 p.m. when two gunmen shot Turla and Escanilla from opposite sides of the highway. Police said the pair was in the company of two others who were riding motorcyles.

Turla's four companions who were not hurt—Marissa Magrina, Norberto Catumay, John Joy Claudio and Ruth Carlos—could not provide additional information to investigators because they said they were asleep when the shooting occurred. The group was on its way to Manila from Lopez, Quezon, when the incident happened. *Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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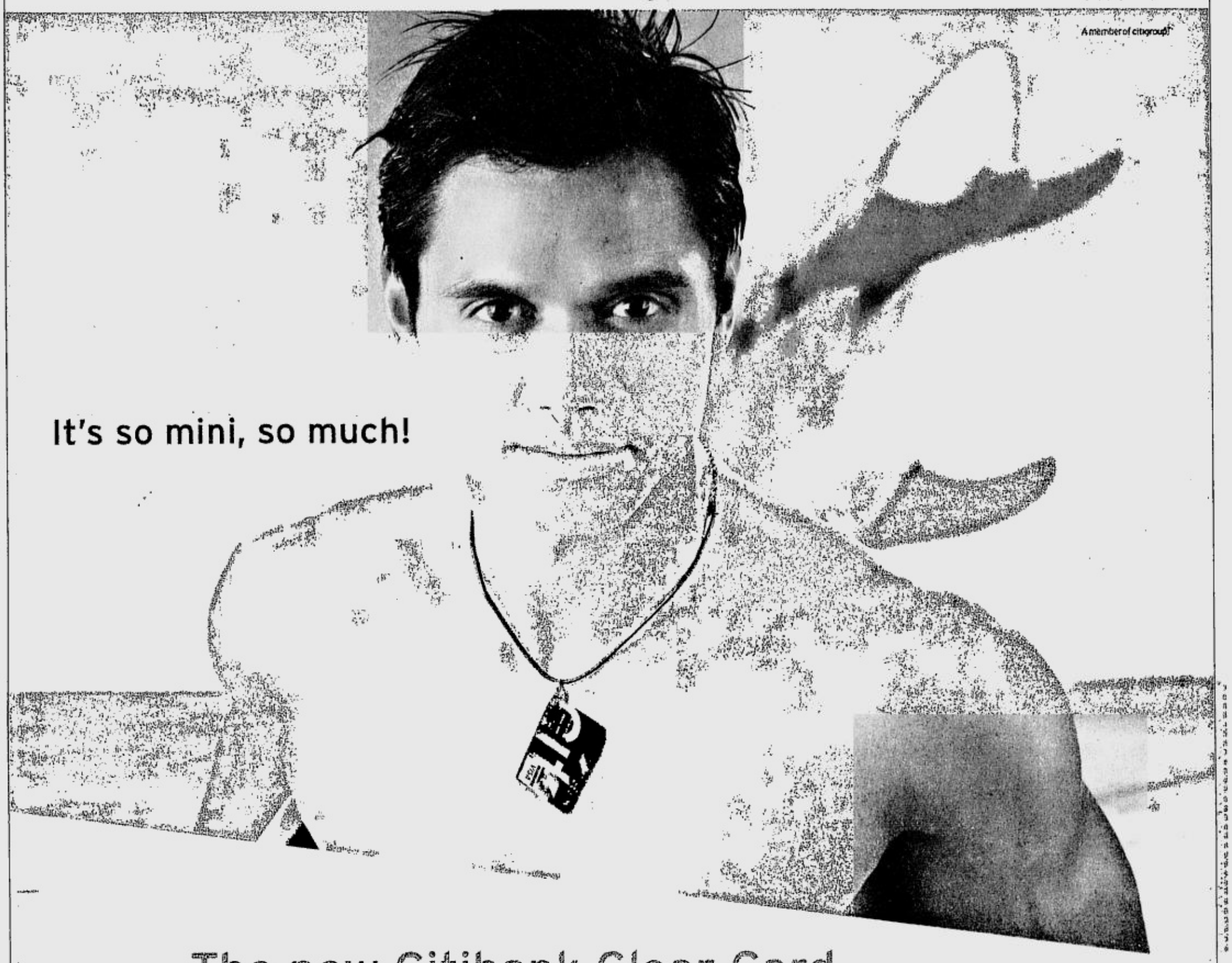

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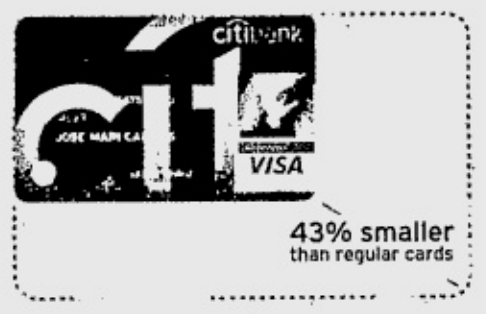

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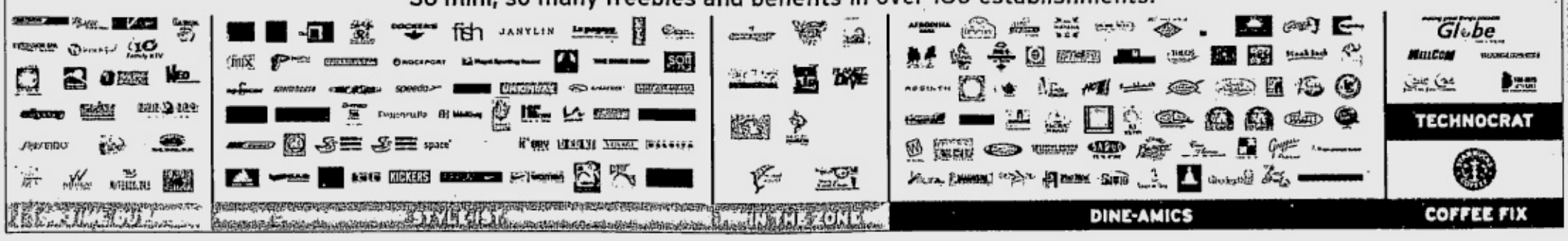

Espiritu son, 9 execs face estafa raps

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has recommended the filing of syndicated estafa charges against John Anthony Espiritu, son of former finance secretary and current ambassador to London Edgardo Espiritu, and nine top officials of the Westmont Investment Corp. (Wincorp) for allegedly defrauding investors of P7.7 million.

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In a five-page resolution, Justice Secretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez reversed the earlier decision of the Manila Prosecutor's Office dismissing the case and ordered the prosecution of the top Wincorp officials.

Aside from Espiritu, Wincorp's former chair, those ordered charged in court were Wincorp president Antonio T. Ong, vice president Anthony P. Reyes, corporate secretary Nemesio R. Briones, director Mariza Santos-Tan, assistant corporate secretary Francis E. Oreña, director Manuel Estrella, Henry T. Cua-Loping, Vicente T. Cua and Simeon S. Cua.

The DOJ, however, cleared two respondents, Manuel Tankiansee and Alfonso Reyno III, because they had severed their ties with Wincorp when the lost investments were made.

Espiritu and the nine top Wincorp officials were ordered charged based on the complaint of investors Juan Yu, Cherry Ann Yu and Mary Yu, who lost a total of P7.7 million. But this amount is only a small part of the estimated P7 billion lost by a thousand investors in Wincorp.

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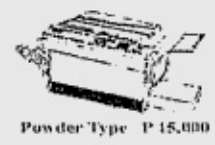

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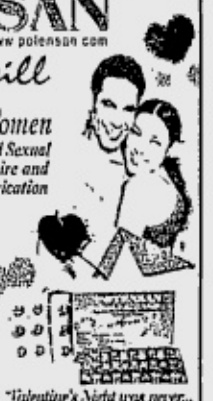

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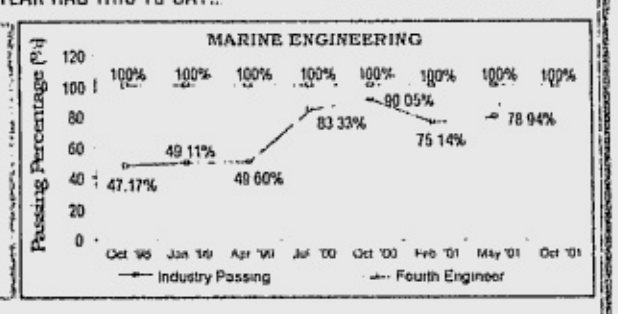

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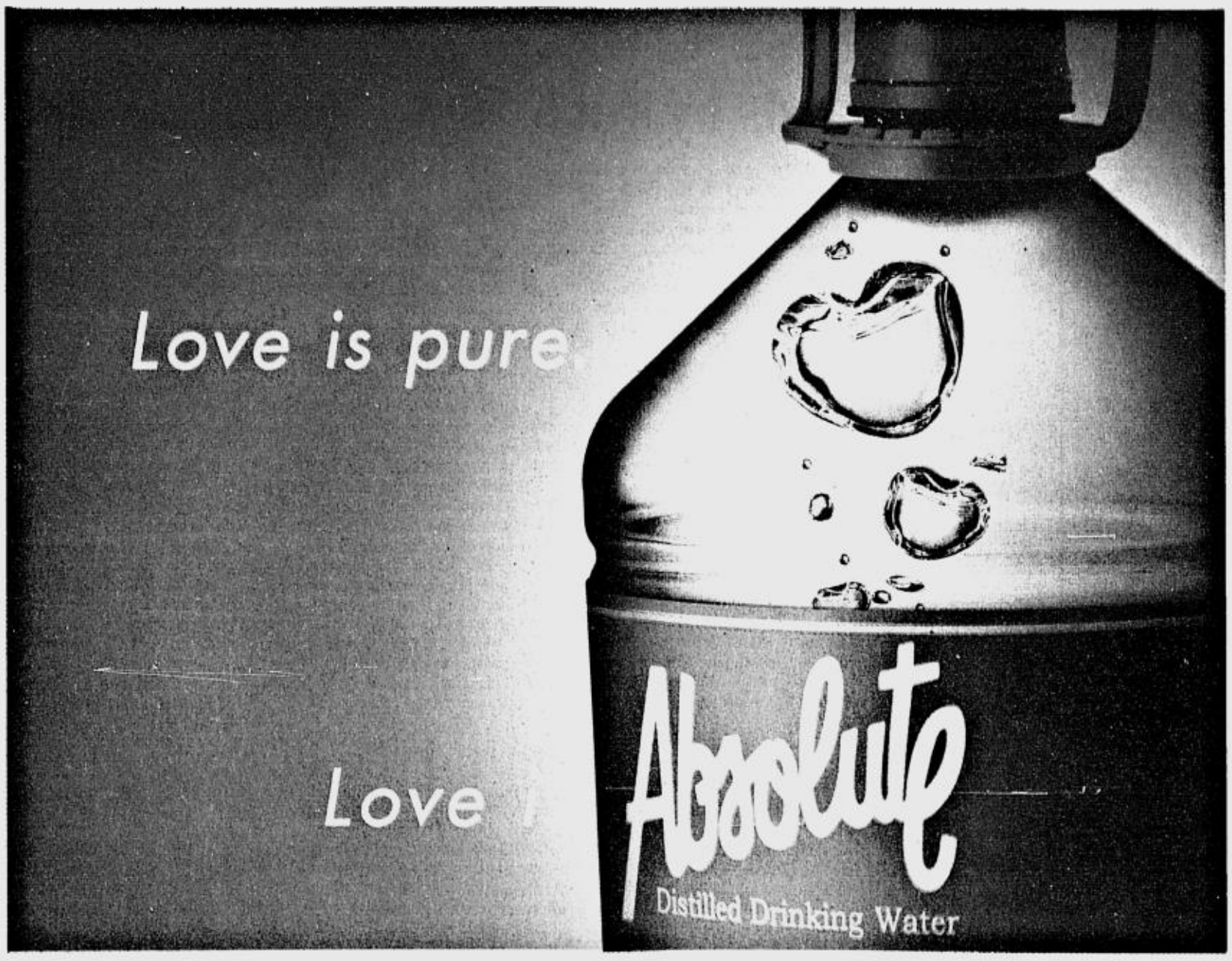

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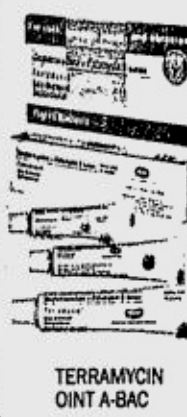
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LP defends Biazon; Pag-asa stands by Roco

By Christine O. Avendaño and TJ Burgonio

THE LIBERAL Party yesterday took the cudgels for embattled reelectionist Sen. Rodolfo Biazon whom presidential bet Raul Roco had accused of receiving P30 million from Malacañang.

LP called on Roco to refrain from issuing "baseless" statements against the senator. "Otherwise, he (Roco) may be construed as sour-graping or getting desperate," said a statement issued by LP director general Eleazar Quinto.

Expressing "full support and confidence" in Biazon, Quinto said the party stands by the senator as he made it clear that "there is no P30 million given by the coalition to the senator just to switch camps."

The party also criticized Roco for saying that Biazon was a "factory defect" of the Philippine Military Academy.

"We wish to remind Mr. Roco that the freedom to speak that he abuses in his public attack on Senator Biazon is possible only because of the efforts and sacrifices of the man he paints as a factory defect," the party said.

After bolting the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, Biazon joined Roco's Alyansa ng Pagasa. He later joined LP which eventually chose to support President Macapagal-Arroyo in the May polls.

"We hope that Mr. Roco is not taking it personally that he was not chosen as LP standard bearer," Quinto said.

In Cebu City, Rocos' senatorial candidates yesterday corroborated Roco's accusation against Biazon, saying the latter was the one lying.

Lawyer Melanio "Batas" Mauricio said he was present when Biazon mentioned the offer during a meeting with Roco at their headquarters in November last year.

Double burial? Filipina in Rocknes recovered

By Martin P. Marfil

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Employment yesterday announced that Norwegian authorities have been able to identify four more Filipino seamen whose bodies were recovered from the MV Rocknes which capsized on Jan. 20.

In a statement, DOLE identified the four as Marife Cave, Christopher Alday, Raynaldo Calma and Sieje Gamez.

As of yesterday, 16 of the 18 seamen whose bodies were trapped in the hull of the overturned tanker have been accounted for. Of the 16, only 12 have been identified so far.

But for the family of Cave, the lone Filipino woman on the crew, her death is not the only tragedy they have to contend with.

Cave's husband, Gerardo, himself a seaman, was killed on Feb. 7 by still unknown gunmen while he was on his way to Daet, Camarines Norte.

Ligaya Cave-Pandi, Gerardo's mother, continues to puzzle over the death of her son.

She blamed television news broadcasts that said the families of the victims of the Norwegian sea tragedy stood to receive some P13 million in insurance benefits for the ambush of her son.

She said Gerardo, with Marife's parents, had just arrived from Norway where he went to check on the fate of his wife.

The following day, Feb. 7, Cave-Pandi said Gerardo called her up on her cell phone to tell her he was coming home to Daet to rest and to take her to Quezon City for a checkup at St. Luke's Medical Center.

She said Gerardo told her he was already in Batangas by then. At 10:30 a.m. when she called her son, a male voice, not Gerardo's, answered his cell phone and told him that her son had been shot. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

EU tells Pakistan: Free Filipino crew

STRASBOURG—The European Parliament on Thursday demanded that Pakistan immediately release four Greek and three Filipino sailors whose tanker caused a huge oil spill when it sank last year off the port of Karachi.

"The continued detention of these individuals is unacceptable," it said in a statement that also noted that one of the Greeks had in January tried to commit suicide.

"Parliament notes that the causes of the accident are still to be determined but that the ship was under the orders of a local pilot at the time," it said.

Pakistan is demanding $1 billion in compensation for environmental damage cause by the oil spill, the worst in the country's history.

The Greek-run MV Tasman Spirit ran aground last July and snapped in two in August, leaking 28,000 tons of crude oil into the water near the Arabian Sea port in a rich tropical marine ecosystem.

A Pakistani court freed the crew on bail but barred them from leaving the country until a verdict was reached on the case.

The crew face criminal charges for negligence in navigation and endangering lives. A Greek engineer who arrived after the accident to lead the salvage effort has also been detained.

But the tanker's Greek managers, Polembros Shipping, blame the Karachi port's pilot for the accident and have said they may ask British courts to seize Pakistani assets abroad to force the crew's release. *AFP*

Escudero is FPJ's official spokesman

REP. Francis Escudero (NPC, Sorsogon) has been designated as the official spokesperson of movie actor and leading presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr.

This was confirmed yesterday by Sen. Vicente Sotto III and former press secretary Rodolfo Reyes, who both used to speak in behalf of Poe.

Escudero, a lawyer, was until recently the spokesperson of the Nationalist People's Coalition of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

A Georgetown University graduate, Escudero, 34, recently gave up the post as NPC spokesperson to support the senatorial bid of his father, Salvador Escudero, who is running for senator under the Poe-led Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino.

The young Escudero is one of a number of NPC congressmen now openly identified with Poe, the others being Reps. Harry Angping and Darlene Antonino-Custudio.

When sought for confirmation, Escudero said that the announcement of his designation as Poe's official spokesperson will be made in the next few days. *Carlito Pablo*

Crash victim's wife seeks assistance

THE WIFE of the lone Filipino survivor in Tuesday's crash of an Iranian airline in the United Arab Emirates yesterday sought Senate help in leaving for Dubai immediately so she could be reunited with her husband who is recovering from his injuries.

Teresita de la Cruz, wife of Jorge de la Cruz, went to the Senate yesterday to seek the help of Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan.

De la Cruz said she wanted to fly to her husband who is in a hospital recovering from "bone fractures" he sustained in the crash.

Accompanied by her brother and brother-in-law, De la Cruz belied claims made by the Department of Labor and Employment that she was set to leave for Dubai yesterday.

She said she was still preparing her travel papers.

Jorge de la Cruz, who works as an offset operator at Asiatic Printing Press, is in stable condition at the al-Qassimi Hospital in Sharjah, the UAE, after the crash of Kish Air Flight 7170. *Christine O. Avendaño*

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Victims ask Supreme Court: Does justice have a heart?

By Philip C. Tubeza

DOES justice still have a heart?

Running priest Fr. Robert Reyes and representatives of the Abadilla 5, the "San Andres Massacre," and the Kuratong Baleleng gang victims want to know as they complained about the slow progress of their cases at a picket in front of the Supreme Court yesterday.

"Let Valentine's Day be not only for ordinary lovers but especially for lovers of justice and truth. May God bless all who have endured the fight for justice in spite of the frustrations that come from instances of corruption, incompetence or plain inefficiency in the administration of justice," said Reyes, who held a Mass after running from Luneta to the SC.

Carrying placards with the messages "Stop railroading justice—Kuratong Baleleng Watch" and "Roses for truth. Hearts for justice," the protesters gave red and white roses to passersby. Among those who attended the Mass were widows of the six Bonnet gang suspects who were allegedly summarily executed by the police in San Andres, Manila, on Dec. 3, and representatives of the Kuratong Baleleng gang and the Abadilla 5, the five men convicted for the 1996 killing of Col. Rolando Abadilla.

Reyes condemned in particular the transfer on Wednesday of Lenido Lumanog, of the Abadilla 5, from the National Kidney Transplant Institute to the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa. A kidney-transplant patient dependent on anti-rejection drugs worth P45,000 monthly, Lumanog needs an "antiseptic" environment to prevent undue exposure to bacteria, he added.

He also decried the government's inaction on findings of the Commission on Human Rights that the six kidnap and robbery suspects in San Andres may have been tortured before they were killed.

Reyes also hit Quezon City Judge Teresa Yadao for dropping the Kuratong Baleleng case against Sen. Panfilo Lacson, now a presidential candidate, and 33 others. The Department of Justice is set to file an appeal before the high tribunal to overturn the ruling.

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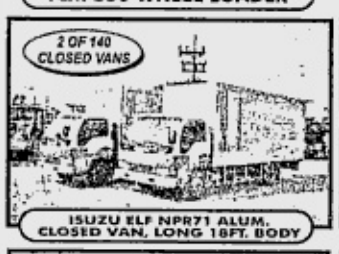

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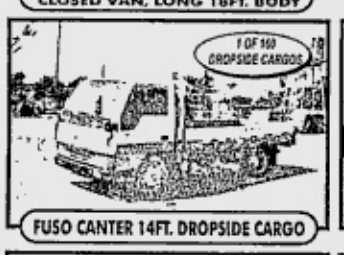

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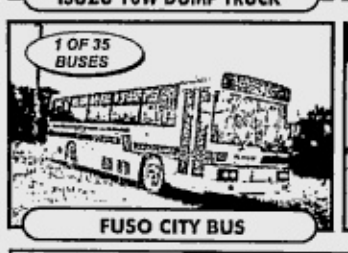

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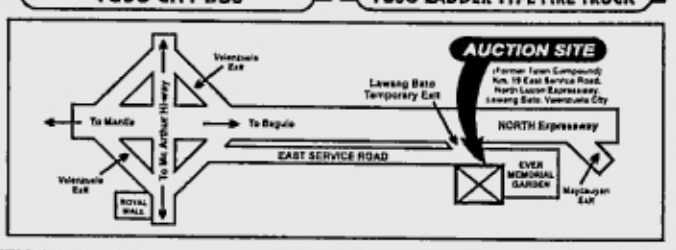

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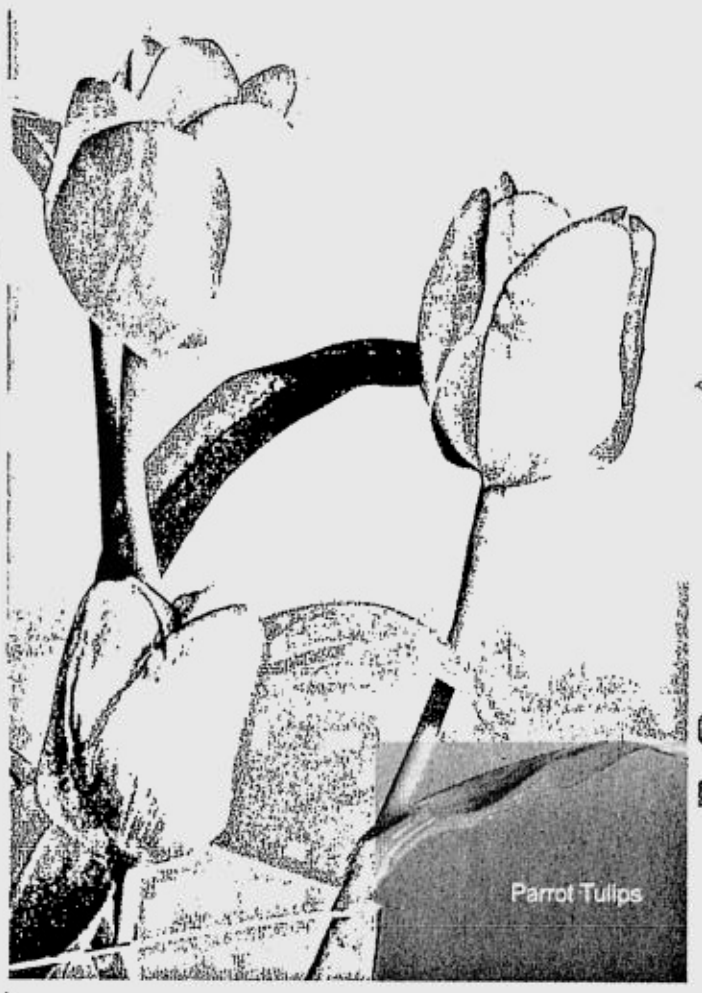

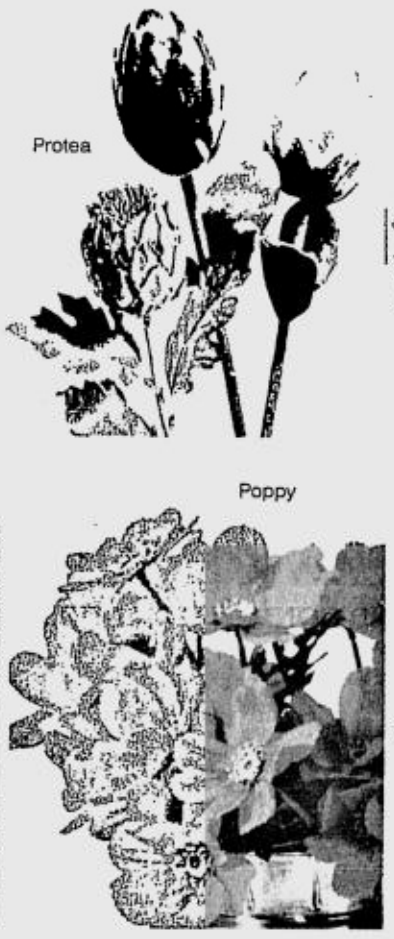

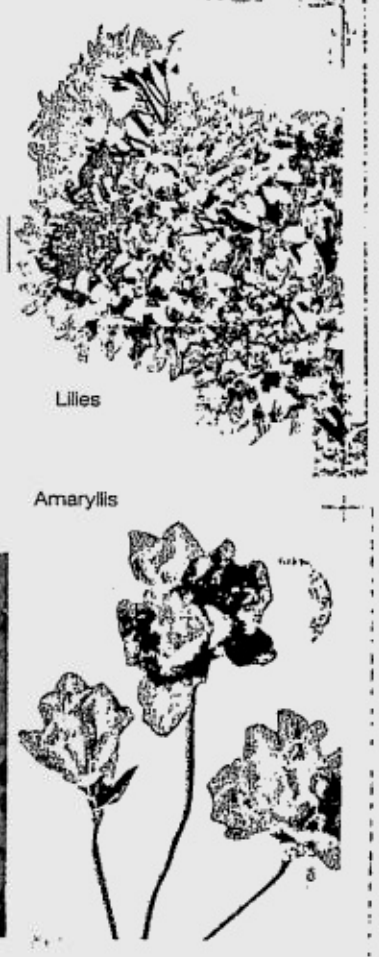

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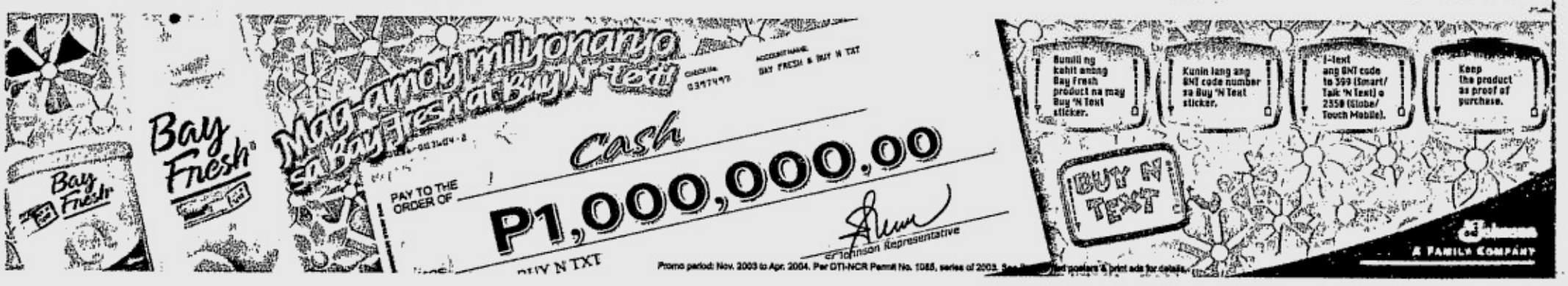

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Victims ask Supreme Court: Does justice have a heart?

By Philip C. Tubeza

DOES justice still have a heart?

Running priest Fr. Robert Reyes and representatives of the Abadilla 5, the "San Andres Massacre," and the Kuratong Baleleng gang victims want to know as they complained about the slow progress of their cases at a picket in front of the Supreme Court yesterday.

"Let Valentine's Day be not only for ordinary lovers but especially for lovers of justice and truth. May God bless all who have endured the fight for justice in spite of the frustrations that come from instances of corruption, incompetence or plain inefficiency in the administration of justice," said Reyes, who held a Mass after running from Luneta to the SC.

Carrying placards with the messages "Stop railroading justice—Kuratong Baleleng Watch" and "Roses for truth. Hearts for justice," the protesters gave red and white roses to passersby. Among those who attended the Mass were widows of the six Bonnet gang suspects who were allegedly summarily executed by the police in San Andres, Manila, on Dec. 3, and representatives of the Kuratong Baleleng gang and the Abadilla 5, the five men convicted for the 1996 killing of Col. Rolando Abadilla.

Reyes condemned in particular the transfer on Wednesday of Lenido Lumanog, of the Abadilla 5, from the National Kidney Transplant Institute to the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa. A kidney-transplant patient dependent on anti-rejection drugs worth P45,000 monthly, Lumanog needs an "antiseptic" environment to prevent undue exposure to bacteria, he added.

He also decried the government's inaction on findings of the Commission on Human Rights that the six kidnap and robbery suspects in San Andres may have been tortured before they were killed.

Reyes also hit Quezon City Judge Teresa Yadao for dropping the Kuratong Baleleng case against Sen. Panfilo Lacson, now a presidential candidate, and 33 others. The Department of Justice is set to file an appeal before the high tribunal to overturn the ruling.

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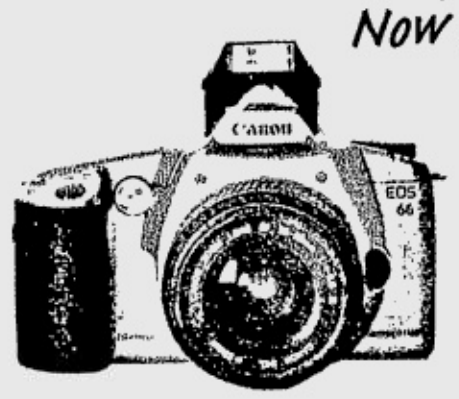

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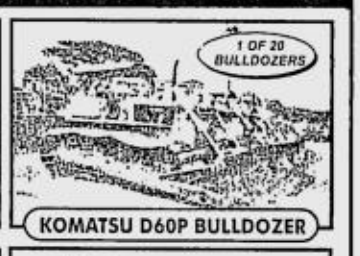

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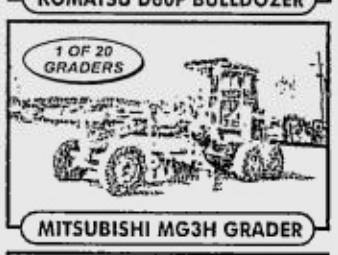

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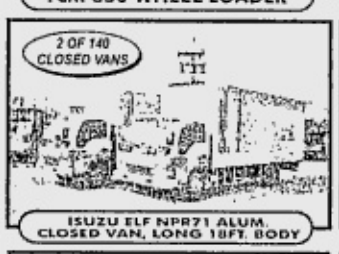

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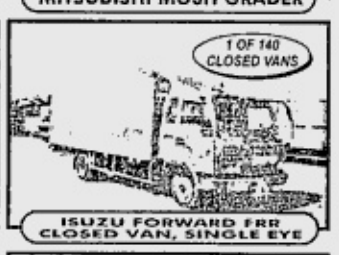

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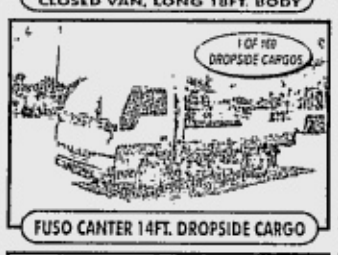

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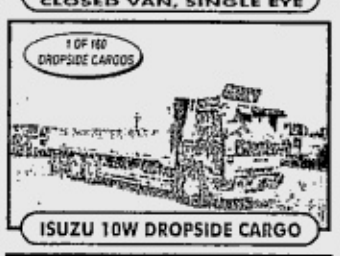

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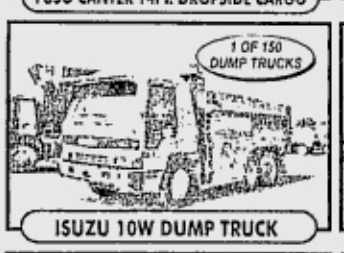

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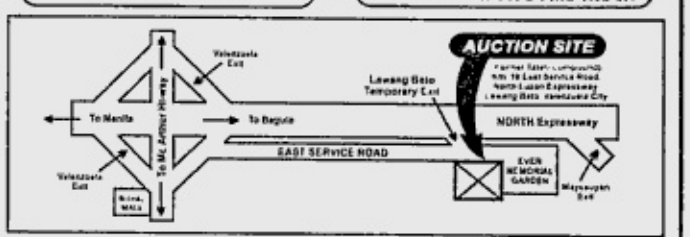

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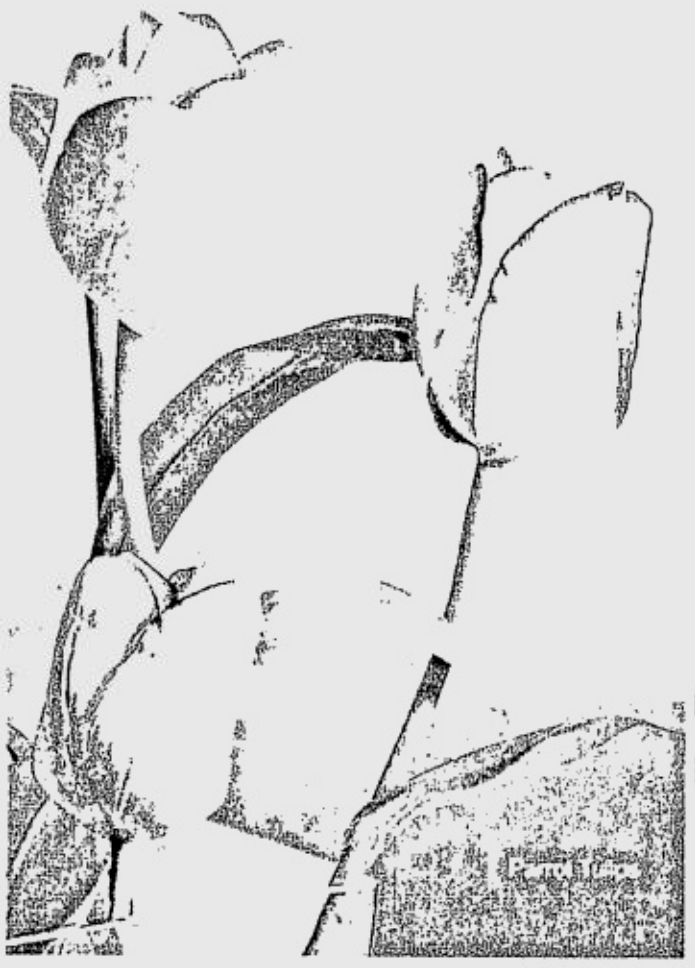

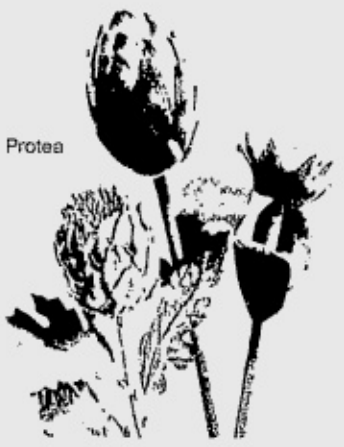
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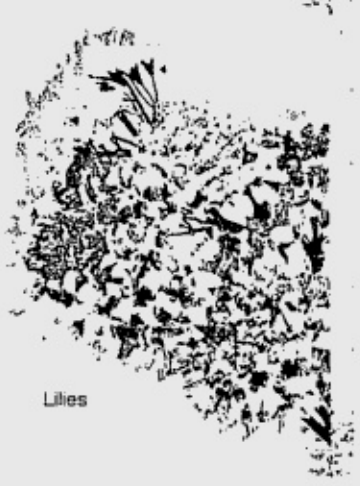
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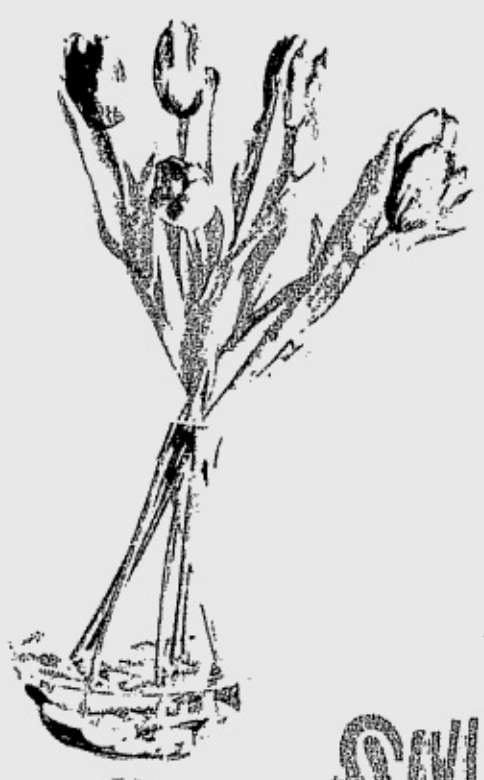
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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

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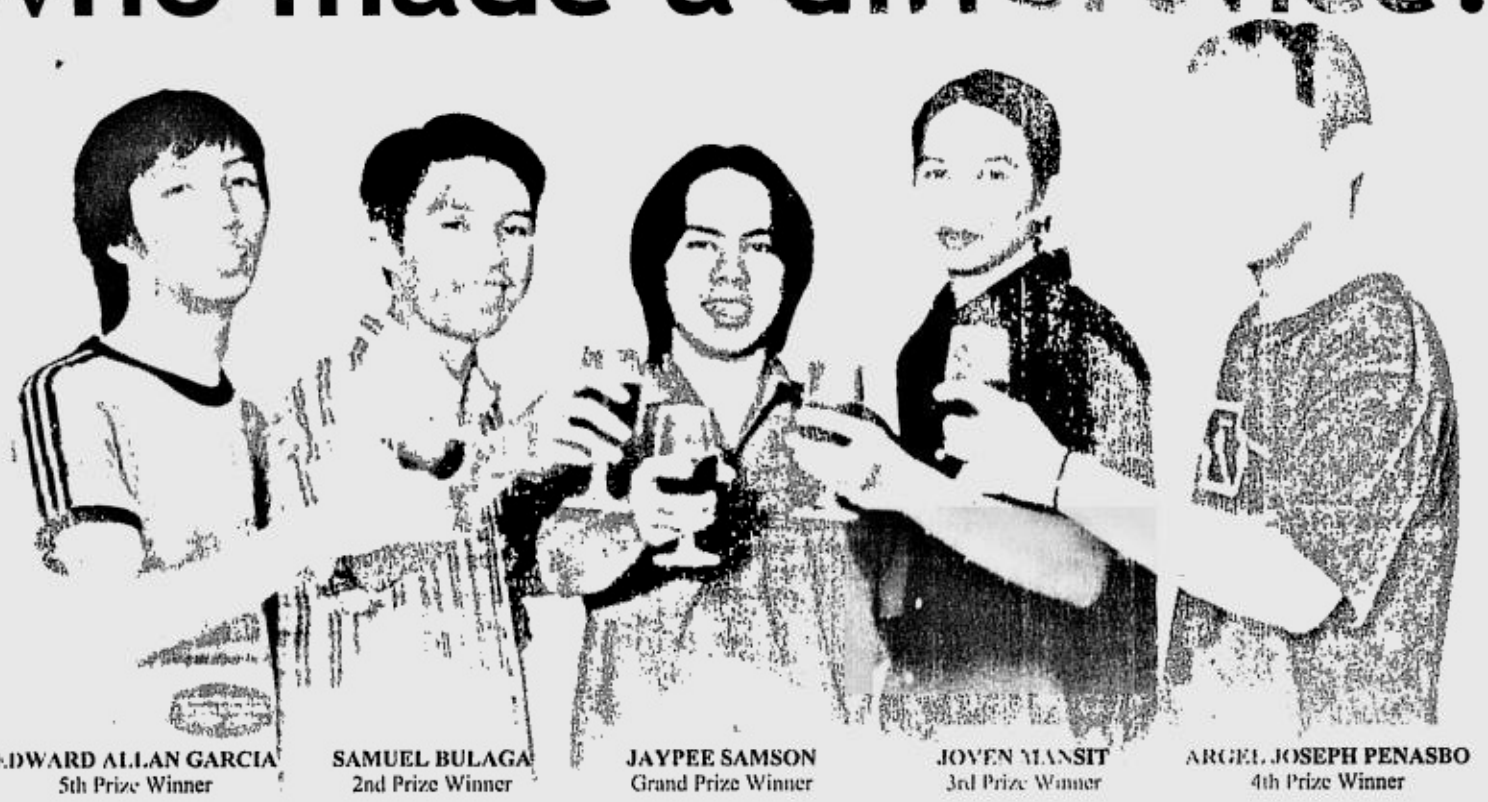

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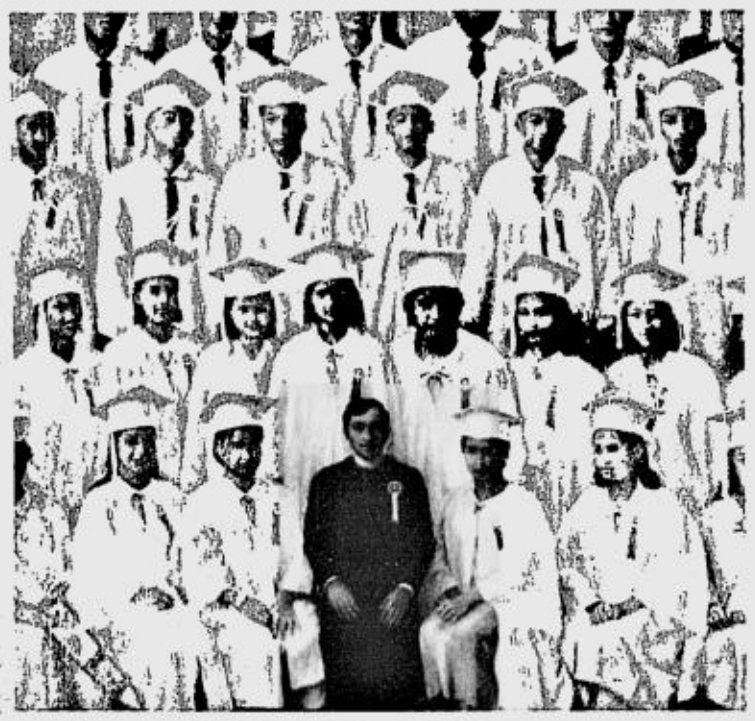

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PLDT 75 THINK AHEAD

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Local media said Anderson was 26 and a converted Muslim who grew up in Everett, Washington, and graduated from Washington State University in 2002.

Barger did not discuss Anderson's religious beliefs, however, saying that "religious preferences are an individual right and responsibility."

The Pacific Northwest region has witnessed a series of arrests in the past year over al-Qaida-linked activities.

Earlier this week, Maher "Mike" Hawash, a 39-year-old former Intel Corp. software engineer in Portland, Oregon, was sentenced to seven years in prison for trying to aid Taliban forces in 2001.

Hawash had tried to travel with others, most of whom have also been sentenced to prison terms, to link up with Taliban forces, a journey which reached a dead end in China in October 2001.

James Ujaama, of Seattle, is due to be formally sentenced on Friday of plotting to set up an al-Qaida training camp in the United States. *Reuters*

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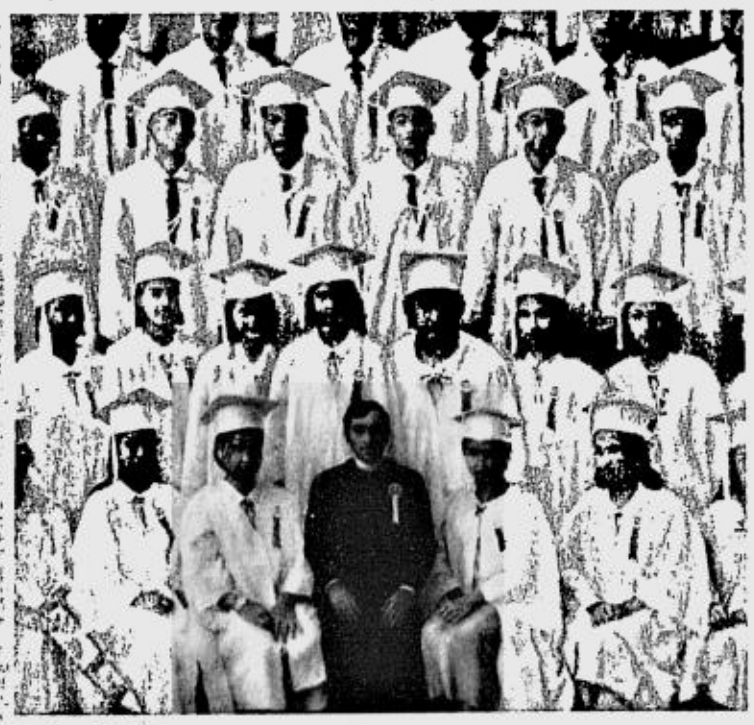

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Local media said Anderson was 26 and a converted Muslim who grew up in Everett, Washington, and graduated from Washington State University in 2002.

Barger did not discuss Anderson's religious beliefs, however, saying that "religious preferences are an individual right and responsibility."

The Pacific Northwest region has witnessed a series of arrests in the past year over al-Qaida-linked activities.

Earlier this week, Maher "Mike" Hawash, a 39-year-old former Intel Corp. software engineer in Portland, Oregon, was sentenced to seven years in prison for trying to aid Taliban forces in 2001.

Hawash had tried to travel with others, most of whom have also been sentenced to prison terms, to link up with Taliban forces, a journey which reached a dead end in China in October 2001.

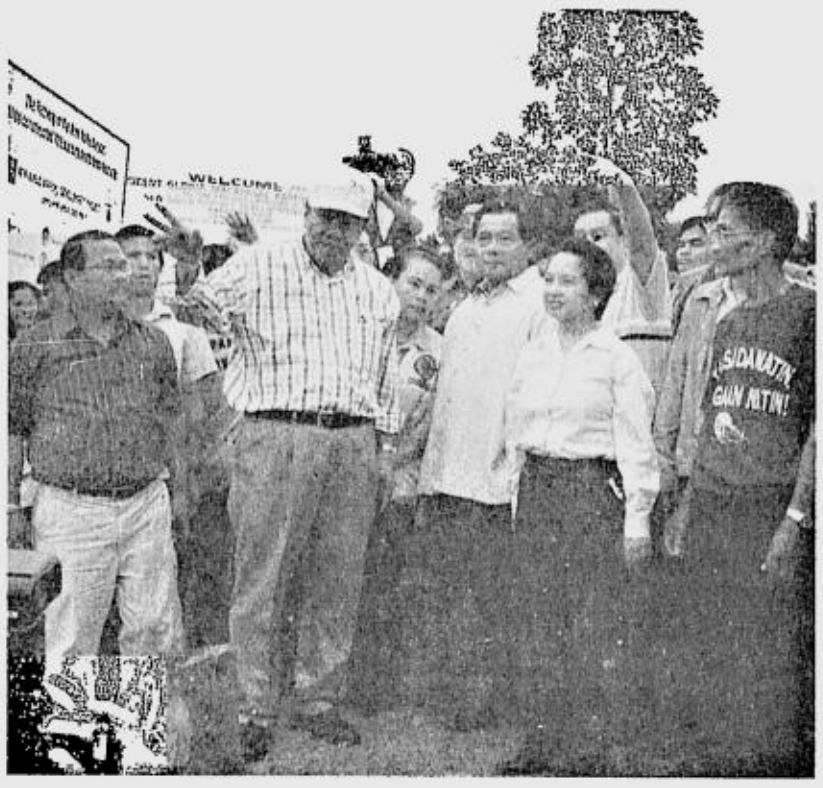
James Ujaama, of Seattle, is due to be formally sentenced on Friday of plotting to set up an al-Qaida training camp in the United States. *Reuters*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Ekstrang kita sa barangay.

Ito ang hatid ng programang "Kalsada Natin, Alagaan Natin."

Sa pakikilahok ng bawat barangay sa pangangalaga ng mga tabing kalsada, mabibigyan ng trabaho ang mga walang hanapbuhay sa kanilang barangay. Malaking tulong din ito sa pamahalaan sa pagpapaunlad ng kalakalang pangkanayunan at sa pagpapalawak at pagpapatibay ng aksyong sibiko at samahang pang-barangay. Ito ay inisyatibo ng Pamahalaang Arroyo, sa pakikipag-tulungan ng DPWH, DOTC, DOF, DBM, at mga pribadong sektor na bumubuo sa Tanggapan ng Road Board. Ang pondo nito ay galing sa registration fee ng mga sasakyan sa bisa ng Republic Act 8794 o Motor Vehicle Users Charge na ipinatupad simula pa noong 2001.



Programang Pangtrabaho ni Pangulong GLORIA

Ilang katanungan ukol sa Kalsada Natin, Alagaan Natin:

1. ***Anu-anong bahagi ng kalsada ang sakop ng programang ito?***
   a. pavement, carriage o traveled way
   b. roadsides
   c. right of way

2. ***Paano makakatulong ang mga barangay kung wala silang heavy equipment?***
   a. Sa pakikilahok ng mga barangay sa isang subasta o canvass bid na nagsasaad ng mga panuntunan para sa mga kontratang labor based contract o "pakyawan"
   b. paglagda ng barangay at DPWH sa isang memoran-dum of agreement
   c. pagkakaroon ng barangay ng basic maintenance tools sa bisa ng isang Memoran-dum Receipt o MR

3. ***Anu-anong kagamitan ang ibinibigay sa mga barangay para sa pangangalaga ng mga kalsada?***
   a. isang pala
   b. isang piko
   c. isang kartilya
   d. isang karit
   e. isang kalaykay
   f. mga signages

4. ***Ilang tao ang kailangan bawat kilometro para sa pangangalaga ng mga kalsada?***
   Tinatayang apat na katao bawat kilometro (tatlong lalaki at isang babae) ang kailangan upang mapangalagaan ang tabi ng kalsada.

5. ***May mga gamit ba sila laban sa init at ulan?***
   Oo, sila ay bibigyan ng 2 pirasong t-shirt, 1 pirasong kapote, isang sombrero at isang bota bawat manggagawa.

6. ***Paano mapapangalagaan ang gilid ng daan?***
   a. <u>shoulder maintenance</u> – dapat tiyakin na ligtas sa mga balakid o bagay na maaaring pagmulan ng aksidente ang gilid ng kalsada.
   b. <u>vegetation control</u> – dapat tiyaking regular na nagagapas ang mga damo sa gilid kalsada upang maayos na makadaloy ang tubig sa kanal.
   c. <u>drainage maintenance</u> – dapat tiyaking walang magiging sagabal sa pagdaloy ng tubig sa kanal, lalo na kung tag-ulan, tulad ng mga bato, sanga ng kahoy at basura upang maiwasan ang sakuna at pagbaha.

Mula Oktubre 2003, ipinatupad na ang programa sa mga sumusunod na lansangan:

◆ Mula hangganan ng Urdaneta, Pangasinan hanggang Kalakhang Maynila, tatahak sa Manila North Road;

◆ Mula sa Kalakhang Maynila hanggang sa boundary ng San Pablo at Tiaong, Quezon, tatahak sa Manila South Road;

◆ Mula sa Lucena City hanggang sa Pagbilao, Quezon, tungo sa Padre Burgos at Unisan, tatahak sa Manila South Road;

◆ Mula sa Unisan patungo sa Matnog, Sorsogon sa Region V

◆ Muñoz, Nueva Ecija para sa kabuuan ng Luzon

Inilunsad ang programa sa Visayas noong Enero 2004 sa Cabatuan, Iloilo

◆ REGION VI - Western Visayas
• Aklan • Antique • Capiz
•Guimaras • Iloilo
• Negros Occidental

◆ REGION VII - Central Visayas
• Bohol • Cebu
• Negros Oriental • Siquijor

◆ REGION VIII - Eastern Visayas
• Eastern Samar
• Leyte • Northern Samar
• Samar
•Southern Leyte
• Biliran

Ilulunsad ang programa sa Mindanao sa Pebrero 2004 sa Cagayan de Oro City

◆ REGION IX - Zamboanga Peninsula
• Zamboanga del Norte
• Zamboanga del Sur
• Zamboanga Sibugay

◆ REGION X- Northern Mindanao
• Bukidnon • Camiguin
• Lanao del Norte • Misamis Occidental • Misamis Oriental

◆ REGION XI- Davao Region
• Compostela Valley
• Davao del Norte
• Davao del Sur
• Davao Oriental

◆ REGION XII- SOCCSKSARGEN
• North Cotabato
• South Cotabato
• Saranggani
• Sultan Kudarat

◆ Region XIII - CARAGA Region
• Agusan del Norte
• Agusan del Sur
• Surigao del Norte
• Surigao del Sur

◆ Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao
• North Cotabato
• Lanao del Sur
• Maguindanao • Sulu
• Tawi-tawi

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

UN inspectors find nuclear blueprints in Iran

VIENNA—UN nuclear weapons inspectors in Iran have found blueprints for an advanced uranium enrichment centrifuge that Tehran had failed to declare while claiming to provide full disclosure on its atomic program, diplomats said Thursday.

But the diplomats said the discovery was not a "smoking gun" that the UN watchdog the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) could use to take Iran before the UN Security Council, where it could face sanctions.

"It doesn't represent something new in terms of their capabilities," one diplomat said.

He said that if the IAEA found designs for actual weapons, "that would be the smoking gun, that's the killer" since Iran has repeatedly said its nuclear program is strictly for peaceful purposes.

The IAEA's board of governors is to meet March 8 to review the situation in Iran, following an ultimatum that expired last Oct. 31 for the Islamic republic to reveal all details of its nuclear program.

The IAEA said in November that Iran had been hiding sensitive details, including the enriching of small amounts of uranium and plutonium, for 18 years.

In Berlin Thursday, US Undersecretary of State John Bolton said: "The response is clear. There's no doubt that Iran continues a nuclear program."

"We'll be looking seriously at what to do about Iran," he said, adding that the next steps could be taken in cooperation with Britain, France and Germany, the three countries which won an agreement from Iran in October to come clean on its nuclear program and to suspend the enrichment of uranium.

Centrifuges are used to enrich uranium both for nuclear reactors and for atomic bombs.

"There is no doubt we think that the case of Iran should be referred in the Security Council," Bolton said.

But in Rome, Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi denied that Tehran had "a plan to develop nuclear weapons" and said his country was willing to cooperate with IAEA inspectors.

Kharazi, on a two-day visit to the Italian capital, was responding to questions from reporters about Bolton's claims that Iran was pursuing a program to make nuclear weapons.

Diplomats said the IAEA had used revelations made in dismantling Libya's atomic program to guide them to what the Iranians had. *AFP*

SHARP be sharp

CLEAN AIR BULLETIN

Plasmacluster

IS YOUR INDOOR AIR REALLY SAFE?

Eliminate 90% of harmful indoor viruses with the new technology

Studies conducted by research laboratories show that indoor air can sometimes be more dangerous than the air outside. Air pollution does not solely mean thick, black smoke or nauseating exhaust. Air pollution includes dust mites, pesticides, mold, pet dander and bacteria - all of which are usually found indoors.

This is why indoor air does not automatically equate to safe air. In most offices, schools and a good number of households, people make use of air con. Aside from its air-cooling effect, many believe that the air it produces is a lot cleaner than the air outside.

Such might be the case, but unseen to our naked eyes are the airborne contaminants that are present in the air.

The good news is that Sharp has created the technology needed to solve this problem. The Sharp Plasmacluster air conditioner makes use of plasma to generate positive and negative ions surrounded by large numbers of water molecules which are released in large quantities into the air. These bonds of positive and negative ions and water are called cluster ions. When the cluster ions encounter mold, bacteria or other odor-causing molecules in the air, the ion cluster and the contaminants stick together.

WHAT'S NEW?	
SHARP PLASMACLUSTER	OTHERS
Sharp Plasmacluster method ***releases positive and negative ions*** into the air which decompose and deactivate harmful airborne substances by chemical reaction.	Other aircons have ionizers that release negative ions only. Negative ions do not decompose/ deactivate harmful substances. It only activates cells by normalizing disrupted ion balances.

Positive & Negative ions
Eliminate Germs Effectively

They then form an extremely-active group of atoms called hydroxyl radicals. When they finally break apart, the contaminants are rendered inactive.

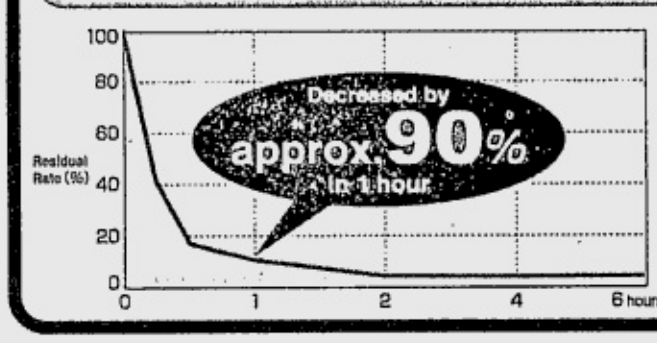
This technology is different from those used in air filters and in some air conditioners. Air filters only trap out airborne impurities. But the Sharp Plasmacluster eliminates 90% of dust, mold, bacteria, odor and disease-causing organisms. It is a state-of-the-art cleaning and purifying system that recreates nature's way of producing clean air.

At least 4,000 cluster ions per cubic centimeter are required to clean the air. But the cluster ion generating system can release up to 50,000 cluster ions per cubic centimeter.

Because of this unique capability, the ion generating technology of the Sharp Plasmacluster is your best bet in the fight against airborne contaminants and you're assured of clean air inside your homes.

Effective Against

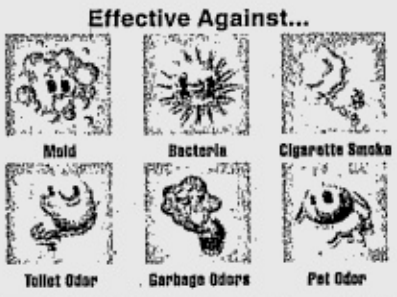
Measurement of Mold Floating in a Room



This test was performed by the Ishikawa Health Service Association in JAPAN

Positive and Negative ions inactivate harmful airborne substances

Effective Against...



Structure of Purification

Plasmacluster ion generator in Sharp's plasmacluster products breakdown water molecules (H_2O) into oppositely charged hydrogen (H^+) and oxygen (O^-) ions. These oppositely charged ions are released to the air and spread throughout the room.

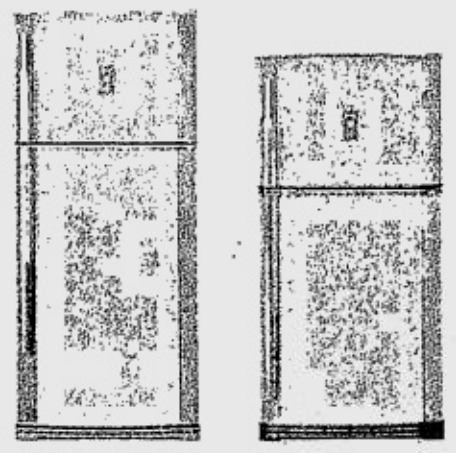
Both positive and negative ions released in the air are immediately surrounded by water molecules, forming cluster ions.

These ions are drawn into airborne particles and molecules by their electrical charge forming unstable hydroxyl (OH) groups or plasmaclusters.

The plasmaclusters then extract from the airborne particle (such as odor, molds, bacteria, allergens and virus) the hydrogen they need to survive. As a result, these airborne irritants break down and water (H_2O) molecules are released into the air.

PLASMACLUSTER FOR INDOOR AIR

PLASMACLUSTER FOR FOOD



Plasmacluster mechanism was proven effective by the following institutions:

CHINA — Shanghai Municipal Center for Disease Control & Prevention
GERMANY — Fraunhofer Institute
GERMANY — Universitatklinikums Lubeck
JAPAN — Ishikawa Prefecture Preventive Medicine Association
JAPAN — Kitasato Research Center of Environmental Science
BRITAIN — British Allergy Foundation

Twins' surgery should have been stopped, says US doctor

SINGAPORE—A neurosurgeon involved in last year's fatal attempt to separate Iranian conjoined twins Ladan and Laleh Bijani said Friday the operation should have been stopped when severe complications set in.

Benjamin Carson told the Singapore coroner's court that the operating team had the option to stop the surgery when the 29-year-old twins began to suffer massive blood loss after their skulls had been disconnected.

At this point, about 90 percent of the way through the operation, the twins' blood vessels and brains were still connected.

Carson, a neurosurgeon at the world-renowned Johns Hopkins Hospital in the United States, told the court via video link that stopping the operation then would have involved a major risk of infarction, stroke or infection.

"Nevertheless, if we knew then what we do today we probably would have taken those risks," he said.

Carson's comments contrasted with Singapore neurosurgeon Keith Goh, the head of the surgical team, who testified to the coroner's court on Wednesday that the operation had to continue despite the complications.

"At that point in the surgery we were so far in the operation it would not have been possible to abandon the procedure and rejoin the twins," Goh told the court.

"The surgeons decided we were at the point of no return and the disconnection had to be completed."

Goh told reporters outside the courtroom after Carson's testimony that their differing statements on whether to continue with the surgery were only a "minor difference in perspective."

"We were all in this together to the end," he said. "Nobody dropped their instruments or walked out of the room."

Following the twins' deaths on July 8 last year, Goh publicly repeatedly defended his decision to perform the surgery while Carson said he would not recommend a similar operation again. *AFP*

US falling behind in stem cell research

SAN FRANCISCO—It's official: The United States has fallen significantly behind in mining the promising field of stem cell research to treat disease.

A momentous milestone—a team of South Korean researchers has announced its successful harvesting of stem cells from a cloned human embryo—is a feat US researchers have been striving to achieve since at least 2001.

The script, many US scientists say, was essentially written by the Bush administration when it decided to restrict federal funding for research in the politically charged field.

US researchers say the therapeutic cloning accomplished by the South Koreans—creating embryos not to make babies but to treat disease and prolong lives—mirrors research brought to a virtual standstill in this country by domestic politics.

The promise of such research, advocates say, is that it may eventually create therapies that won't lead to immune rejection problems in people.

While they hailed what they considered a landmark occasion, US scientists lamented that a technology largely created in the richest nation on earth was getting more support abroad.

Singapore in November unveiled "Biopolis," a $287-million government biotech center focused on stem cell research.

Chinese researchers last year reported fusing human skin cells with rabbit eggs to produce early stage embryos, which in turn yielded stem cells. The government is also building a stem cell research center.

England, Israel and several other countries also have more advanced stem cell programs. Those countries aren't as politically riven by the issue as the United States. *AP*

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Another GI killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD—A US soldier was killed by a bomb blast hours after the top US army commander in the Middle East narrowly escaped an attack, while a UN team continued to assess demands by Iraq's Shiite majority for early elections.

The latest violence came as the US military said Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who has a $10-million-price on his head, is the prime suspect in deadly bombings that hit the Iraqi holy city of Najaf and the UN headquarters in Baghdad last year.

The soldier, from the 16th military police brigade, was killed and two were wounded when a device struck an army patrol near the Abu Gharib district of Baghdad at around 10:40 p.m. on Thursday, the US military said.

He was the 258th American soldier killed in Iraq since US President George W. Bush declared major combat over on May 1 last year.

Earlier the same day a convoy carrying Gen. John Abizaid, head of US Central Command, and Maj. Gen. Charles Swannack, commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, was attacked in the flashpoint town of Fallujah, 50 km west of Baghdad.

"Three rocket-propelled grenades were fired at their convoy from the rooftops in the vicinity," US Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, deputy coalition operations chief told a news conference.

It was the second attack against a high ranking US official in Iraq since May 1 last year.

In October, US Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz escaped a rocket attack on his hotel during a visit to Baghdad.

Kimmitt denied that Abizaid and Swannack were direct targets in the attack.

He said no soldiers or civilians were wounded in the attack, but Fallujah police Lt. Omar Duleimi said two Iraqi men were killed shortly afterwards, but it was not clear whether they had been involved.

Otherwise, the US military has branded Zarqawi, a suspected al-Qaida operative, as "the most capable terrorist in Iraq" with a network of contacts throughout Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Kimmit said he was the "prime suspect" in two bombings which caused massive loss of life in Iraq last August.

A massive car bomb the holy city of Najaf killed 83 people, including top Shiite Muslim politician Ayatollah Mohammad Baqer al-Hakim.

And an attack on the UN headquarters in Baghdad killed the world body's special representative to Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello, and 22 other staff members, prompting the United Nations to pull its entire staff out of the country.

The coalition said the hunt to kill or capture Zarqawi was "as elaborate and as widespread" as the one for ousted Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein and his two sons Uday and Qusay. *AFP*

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Kerry gains new strength as Bush loses ground

WASHINGTON—US Sen. John Kerry's race for the Democratic presidential nomination gathered pace Friday after it was revealed that former general Wesley Clark, who dropped out Wednesday, would endorse the front-runner.

A new opinion poll also showed US President George W. Bush was losing ground to Kerry, as a majority of Americans concluded he either lied or deliberately exaggerated evidence that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction.

Fifty-four percent of those questioned in the Washington Post-ABC News survey insisted the president exaggerated or lied about prewar intelligence.

As a result, if elections were held today, Kerry would beat Bush by 52 percent to 43 percent among registered voters, according to the poll.

Clark's backing would add momentum as the campaign heads into a new round of primaries in Washington, DC, and Nevada on Saturday and the big midwestern state of Wisconsin next Tuesday.

Two Democratic Party sources said Clark would publicly endorse Kerry on Friday when they appear together in Wisconsin.

Clark, who withdrew after third place finishes in two southern states this week, did not confirm his move, but told CNN television, "I am looking forward to seeing John tomorrow and I am looking forward to going to Wisconsin."

Former Vermont governor Howard Dean broke the united front earlier when he launched a stinging personal attack on Kerry, accusing the senator of helping efforts to undermine his own campaign.

Dean said Kerry had supported a "politically corrupt" secret group that aired negative advertisements against him.

The adverts were paid for by Americans for Jobs, Healthcare and Progressive Values, a group with links to organizations and individuals tied to Kerry and former Democratic contender Rep. Richard Gephardt, who dropped out earlier. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Diana's secret tapes

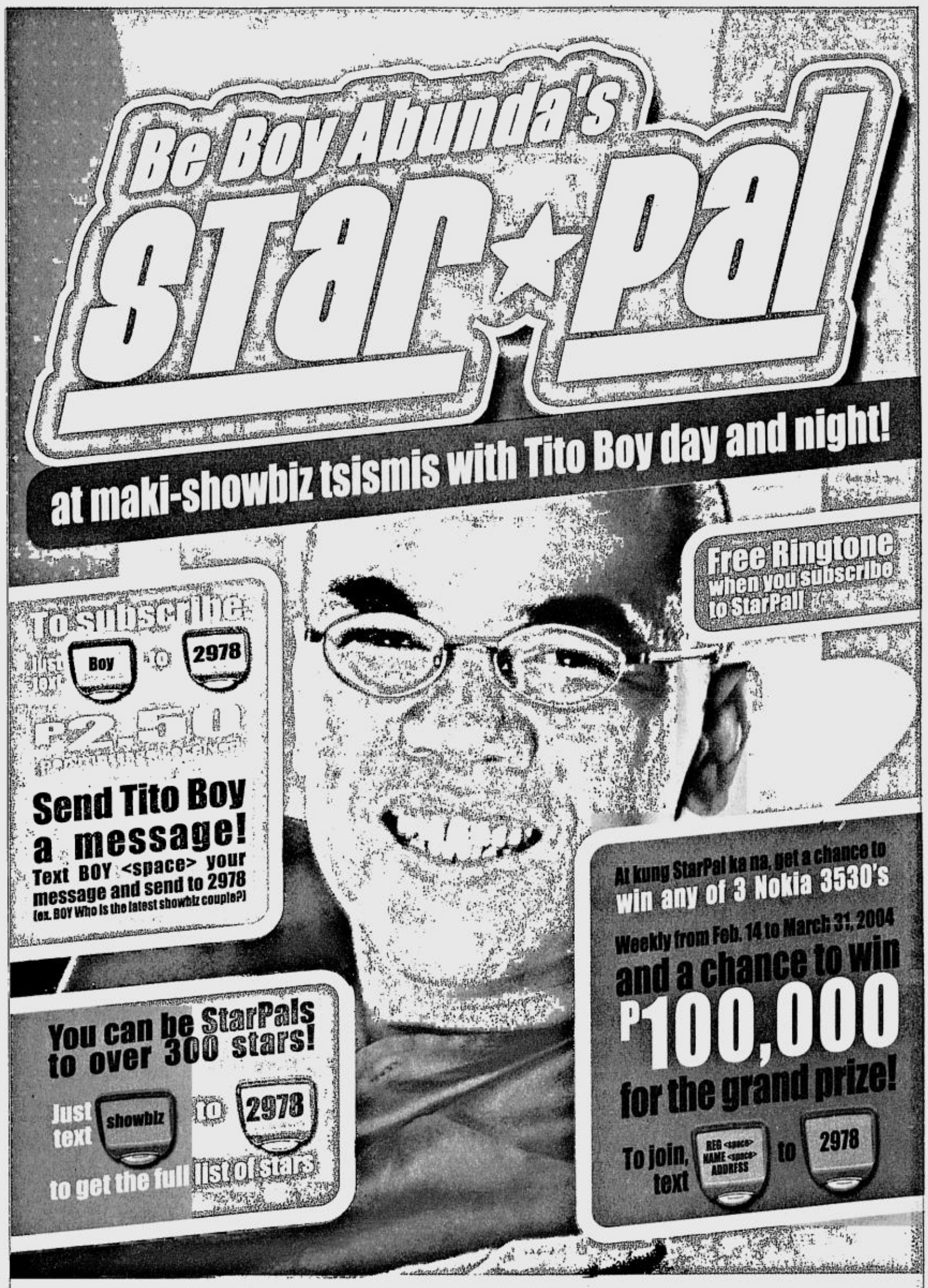
LOS ANGELES—More than six years after her death, audio and videotapes Princess Diana secretly recorded during her ill-fated marriage to Prince Charles will get their first public airing next month on NBC, the network said on Thursday. NBC said it would present excerpts of the audio tapes, the principal source for Andrew Morton's 1992 international bestseller "Diana: Her True Story," and separate video footage taken of her during the same period, in a special two-part broadcast set for March 4 and March 11. The two-hour documentary, titled "Princess Diana: The Secret Tapes," also will feature interviews with some of Diana's closest friends and confidants, NBC said. An NBC spokesperson said the video comes from an hour of footage shot by a "professional associate" of Diana's with her permission between September 1992 and December of 1993, a period when details of her troubled marriage had already come to light in Morton's book. *Reuters*

Israel shuns wall hearing

JERUSALEM—Israel decided Thursday to boycott a world court hearing into its controversial West Bank separation barrier, while the violence claimed another two lives, including a 12-year-old boy, in the Palestinian territories. Israel's decision came amid fresh diplomatic salvos over the conflict with US Secretary of State Colin Powell demanding Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat rein in militants and UN chief Kofi Annan urging the Jewish state to rein in its soldiers. The office of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said his ministers had accepted the advice of a special legal team and would boycott the International Court of Justice (ICJ) hearing to open in The Hague on Feb. 23. *AFP*

Mr. Ugly gets new face

SHANGHAI—A 30-year-old man Chinese man will undergo three months of plastic surgery to transform his looks after winning a Mr. Ugly contest. The unemployed man's surgical procedures will focus on his face, with doctors aiming to make him look like Lu Yi, a singer and actor popular with Chinese teenagers, the Shanghai Morning Post reported Friday. Yu Xinrui, director of the Sino-Australian plastic surgery hospital in central Wuhan city, was quoted as saying "both his face and figure look very much like Lu Yi, so we are going to do the surgery referring to Lu." The man, who claimed to have lost his job due because he was unattractive, won the ugly contest in China's central Hubei province, where Wuhan is located. *AFP*



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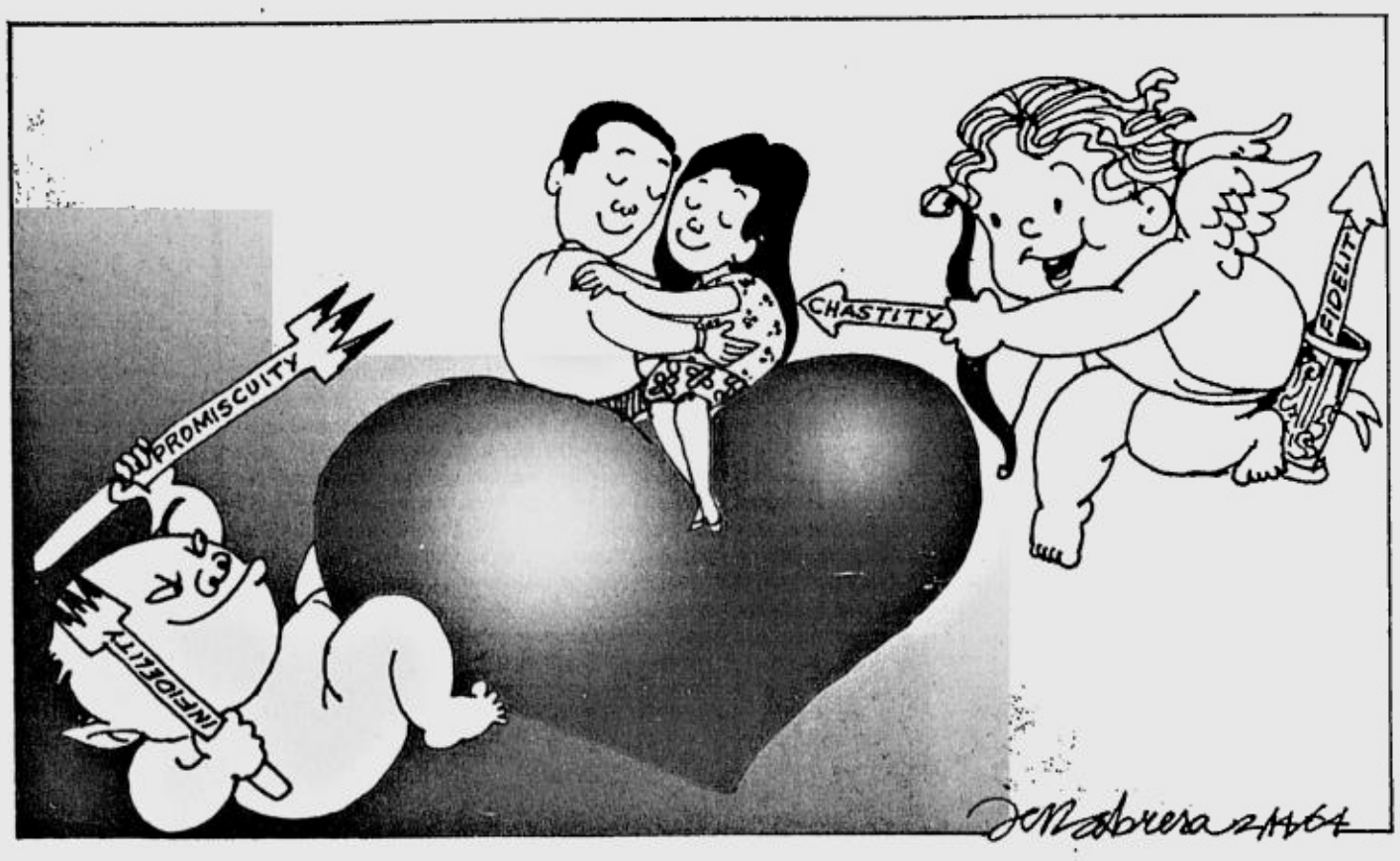

Tit for tat?

EDITORIAL

FERNANDO Poe Jr. says the biggest problem facing Filipinos today is "breakfast, lunch and dinner." The presidential candidate of the opposition Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino told his adoring fans at the official start of the campaign Tuesday, "Poverty is the biggest scandal in the country." And he blamed this on the failure of the government to care for the poor and defend them.

In a nation where 33.7 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, no one will argue with that analysis. Neither can it be denied that the government has been losing the battle to rescue the starving millions from their poverty. While many Filipino officials, particularly local government executives, can find enough money to beautify their surroundings, they don't seem to have enough to house the homeless and feed the hungry. And yet what could be uglier than the sight of hungry children roaming the streets, begging for loose change or sniffing solvent, or of homeless families sleeping on the sidewalks?

No one is about to disagree that if there is any program that should be given the highest priority, it is to put food on the table of the Filipino family. But is Poe the right man to deliver three square meals a day to every Filipino family?

After being nagged for months to tell where he plans to bring the country, Poe finally promised to lead Filipinos into "a new dawn." To get there, his advisers have laid out a "social covenant" outlining what he intends to do if he is elected president. And as expected, its focus is on poverty alleviation.

Poe laid the premise for his centerpiece program by noting that investors were shying away from the country and Filipinos were leaving because of the culture of corruption and influence. He said the country ought to have a leadership that "applies the rule of law, has the political will, inspires confidence and not fear, practices total transparency and is answerable to the people."

The "covenant" says a Poe administration would restore public trust and confidence in government by depoliticizing appointments to top positions and ensuring transparency in transactions. It would provide the Filipinos' most basic needs by increasing funds for rural infrastructure, reorganizing the police force and eliminating shortages in textbooks and classrooms. It would establish a special fund for farmers, launch a nationwide employment program for agriculture and simplify business registration processes.

All of this will require a lot of money, so where do Poe and his advisers propose to get the funds? The "covenant" says the government would introduce tax reforms to improve revenue collections. At the same time, it would live within its means by adopting cost-cutting measures and eliminating non-essential expenditures.

So how does the government undertake a massive employment program and fight poverty single-handedly, while living within its means? And what kind of revenue-generating tax reforms will a Poe administration pursue when the actor himself seems to be one of the smallest taxpayers among big-time performers?

Curiously on the biggest day of his brief political career so far, Poe did not even mention the "social covenant." It was his media bureau that made public his long awaited platform of government. Were his handlers worried that he would not sound credible if he talked about it himself? Or did it mean that the "covenant" doesn't carry his stamp of approval?

Either way the disclosure of his platform has hardly reassured the one sector he needs to have on his side to make even a dent on the problem of mass poverty: business. There is hardly a word in the "covenant" that businessmen and investors can hang on to for support. The business sector, which is already uneasy about Poe's lack of preparation for the job, seems to have been completely ignored as he bids to rally the toiling masses behind his candidacy.

Now the score is even. Businessmen signaled their distrust of Poe when not one of them voted for the actor in a recent survey of presidential preferences among members of the Makati Business Club. Poe, in turn, has completely left them out of his program.

If this is a portent of things to come, where will the country find itself at the end of a Poe presidency? Probably lagging behind Laos and Cambodia in the regional race to development.

Deciding with dispatch

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I AM not in a position to essay a legal opinion on the current issue of Fernando Poe Jr.'s citizenship because I have not studied the testimony of the witnesses and the documentary evidence of the parties. I am only relying on the newspaper reports of the proceedings in the Commission on Elections and the Senate where Poe has been sustained albeit only tentatively. There is still the Supreme Court, of course, to make the final decision on the matter.

The original petition to disqualify Poe on the ground that he is not a natural-born citizen of the Philippines was dismissed by the First Division of the Comelec. On the motion for reconsideration filed with the Comelec en banc as required under its rules, four of the incumbent members voted to affirm the appealed decision, with the fifth dissenting. Four being a majority of the seven-member body, the motion was therefore denied.

The Senate investigation of the same issue conducted by its committee on constitutional amendments also found in favor of Poe. After only two hearings during which Ricardo Manapat, head of the archives bureau, was badgered by Edgardo Angara as the committee chair and Tito Sotto as his flunky, it issued a report sustaining Poe's witnesses. It also recommended the prosecution of Manapat and his lawyer, plus the latter's disbarment, for submitting fake and doctored documents.

Angara is the head of the opposition group endorsing Poe as its presidential standard-bearer, with Sotto as his unofficial spokesman. There was muted criticism of the way they bullied Manapat during his interrogation, at times interrupting him with more questions even before he could complete his answers, but their colleagues let it pass without protest. No wonder Manapat wisely chose not to return.

The report of the committee was signed by Angara, Sotto, Aquilino Pimentel, Tessie Oreta, Loren Legarda, Serge Osmeña, Juan Flavier, Rodolfo Biazon and Ramon Magsaysay. It is claimed that it has not been approved by the Senate plenary because the nine members who voted for it did not constitute the majority of the 18 senators present at that session.

The dispatch with which this probe was conducted reminds me of another investigation that has not yet been concluded. I am speaking of Senate Committee Report No. 237 on the several charges against Panfilo Lacson that were filed as early as three years ago. Several hearings were jointly conducted by three Senate committees at which Mary Ong, Victor Corpus, Reynaldo Acop and others testified. The investigation was abruptly terminated on Sept. 5, 2001, on the ground that the committees had heard enough.

The people who were glued to their TV sets during those days to watch the proceedings have since been expecting the announcement of the committees' report, but to no avail.

I have written no less than 13 articles in this column calling for the disposition of that probe, and I am still waiting. When I first complained about the delay, Joker Arroyo, chair of the blue ribbon committee, called me up to inform me that their report would be released by the middle of January 2002. It was not, however. Legarda, then majority floor leader, assured me several times that the report would be calendared soon, but it was not either.

The delay fed the suspicion that she was then hoping to be Lacson's running-mate and did not want to offend him. When it was at last included in the agenda, Lacson raised procedural objections that caused its return to the three committees. The last I have heard about that investigation was when Robert Barbers, chair of the lead committee on public order and illegal drugs, delivered his sponsorship speech and Sotto interpellated him and called for further study of the report.

What has happened to Senate Committee Report No. 237?

Is it gathering dust in the Senate archives or has it been definitely trashed in deference to Lacson's presidential ambitions? Has it been killed simply because he is a member of the Old Boys Club? Or are the honorable members of the Senate just sitting on it in the hope that the public will eventually forget this *pakulo* that cost a tremendous amount of the people's money?

Poe's real citizenship is still an open question because it is the Supreme Court that has the authority and jurisdiction, whether original or appellate, to finally rule upon it. Whatever its judgment may be, it is certain that it will and must be reached before the elections on May 10, 2004; otherwise the case will become moot and academic. Poe's victory, if it happens, will practically dictate a decision in his favor, and it will not be necessary to decide at all if he loses.

In any event, the people must be informed of Poe's citizenship if only to guide them in the exercise of their right to vote.

Resolution of the Lacson case is also necessary to the proper use of the people's suffrage because they will want to know if this candidate is an injured innocent or an unrepentant rascal. This question will remain unanswered when they go to the polls unless the senators find the guts to reach their verdict at last after the long delay.

Ms Macapagal's minuses

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

AT THIS point, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is off my valentines list. I have serious objections to what she has been doing lately—not just nitpicking, but large bones of contention. As a presidential candidate, she has a lot of pluses—solid accomplishments that I have pointed out. But her actions in the past week have added to her minuses. And those minuses may pile up so much that, at the end of the day, they may overwhelm her pluses.

Two incidents come to mind: First is her choices for the Commission on Elections—Manuel Barcelona Jr. and Virgilio Garcillano. Second is her by-passing of a highly qualified and respected congressman in favor of her brother-in-law. Those decisions reflect very poorly on her priorities and statesmanship.

Two months ago (Dec. 18), this newspaper reported that Ms Macapagal picked incumbent Lakas Rep. Jose Apolinario "Jun" Lozada over her brother-in-law Ignacio Arroyo as the administration candidate for the fifth district of Negros Occidental.

It was a welcome decision that raised the President's standing in the public esteem. It showed that she would not let family considerations affect her political choices. She wouldn't bend party rules about the "equity of the incumbent" to favor her family.

And as political decisions go, it was also a very good one. Iggy Arroyo is a charming fellow, but his only claim to fame is the notoriety he received as "Jose Pidal," and, of course, his relationship with the President. Lozada is a heavyweight in Congress, intellectually and politically. He has co-authored several bills by doing the actual drudgework on them (i.e. the Absentee Voting Bill). He was a teacher (Physics—even authored a Physics handbook), a diplomat, a technocrat in both the executive and legislative branches. He was Lakas vice president for international affairs and provincial chair for Negros Occidental, being a founder of Lakas in 1992. And he has served his constituency well, judging from the local bills he has filed.

Now, Lozada, going for his third term, is out in the cold. Per a report in this newspaper last Tuesday, he has been "stripped" of his positions in Lakas, and was not even given the courtesy of a clarification. And Iggy Arroyo has been endorsed by the President's Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) party.

All of which strongly suggest that she: (a) puts family interests above all else, (b) does not appreciate the concept of party loyalty, (c) ignores rules at will and (d) does not stand by her decisions—her word is not her bond. That's a lot of minuses.

As to the Comelec appointees: I challenge the so-called "Search Committee" of the President to state the basis of its recommendations. Because it is clear that it passed over some outstanding candidates and the public is entitled to know why. Moreover, since the Comelec badly needs to improve its credibility and the appointing power is also a candidate, one expects that even higher standards than usual would be imposed in choosing the new commissioners. Which, apparently, she did not do.

A simple comparison illustrates the point. Garcillano's appointment is defended on the grounds that he is a career man who rose to the rank of regional director before he retired. That sounds good—except that he pales in comparison with another Comelec career official also nominated for the position—Mamasapunod "Mike" Aguam, a Muslim, who also comes from the Comelec ranks but rose faster and higher than Garcillano. Aguam is the executive director of the Comelec, the highest career position in the agency. What is more, Aguam's record is spotless, which cannot be said of Garcillano, who, as regional director for Northern Mindanao, was criticized by Sen. Nene Pimentel for poor performance. If it were just Pimentel, one could probably attribute it to sour grapes. But Garcillano, unfortunately, has a reputation even among Comelec insiders: the scuttlebutt is that he has a network in Mindanao that has been used for cheating purposes.

Why appoint him? Who recommended him? It is suspicious that no one claims that distinction—Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos denies responsibility. In fact, the commission en banc reportedly recommended Aguam.

In Aguam's case, I know of one who recommended him: my husband, Christian, a former Comelec chair. I overheard him citing Aguam's record as well as his knowledge of Aguam's character. Christian has no axe to grind—he met Aguam only at the Comelec.

Three other candidates were recommended by Namfrel: lawyer Bong Bernas and CPA Bal Endriga, who have been involved in elections as volunteers since 1984, and Undersecretary Chito Gascon of the Department of Energy. All three have excellent qualifications, with experience in election activities. But Barcelona got the job—a lawyer whose experience in elections seems limited to contributing P500,000 to the 1998 presidential campaign of Ms Macapagal. I'd like to know who recommended him.

These suggest that when Ms Macapagal chooses, it may not be on the basis of who can best serve the country but on who can best serve her interests. And at the moment her priority is to win in May 2004. Never mind that her appointees will serve for seven years and that, like the appointment by Estrada of the so-called "gang of four" led by Tancangco, the long-term damage to the institution can be disastrous. This does not augur very well for the Filipino.

Be careful of those minuses, Ms President.

New illegal twist

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IN A RECENT chat with INQUIRER editors, Alyansa ng Pag-asa candidate Raul Roco accused reelectionist Sen. Rodolfo Biazon of deserting his camp in exchange for a P30-million payoff from the administration camp. Biazon stoutly denied this, saying he joined the Liberal Party before it formally decided to support President Macapagal-Arroyo's candidacy. With that decision, he said he had to "toe the line." He threatened to sue Roco for libel.

Frankly, I think Biazon was just being pragmatic. Roco's big problem is that he has failed to attract name politicians to his camp. Until Biazon deserted to the LP, he was Roco's superstar, together with former Solicitor General Frank Chavez. I haven't talked to Biazon for some time now, but I suspect he realized this handicap of Roco early on and decided to look for a bigger party that could help him win reelection. And he found the LP, which is currently trying to revitalize itself.

Biazon denies that he accepted any money from the administration party, but assuming he did accept some financial assistance, this should not be surprising. (There's talk from the Lacson camp that Miriam Defensor-Santiago received P50 million for agreeing to run in GMA's ticket.) For as political analyst Tony Gatmaitan stressed during a recent forum, the king-size problem of a serious presidential candidate is that he has to help fund the campaigns of all elective officials, from senator down to the lowliest councilor.

* * *

I'd like to join the chorus of voices outraged by the startling revelation of two oppositionists, senatorial candidate Ernesto Herrera and Manila Rep. Harry Angping of the National People's Coalition, that whatever may be the decision of the Supreme Court on the citizenship of Fernando Poe Jr., the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino presidential candidate would continue with his candidacy.

According to reports, the media wanted to get Poe's reaction to Senate President Franklin Drilon's admonition for him to respect whatever the decision of the Supreme Court. Drilon said the Supreme Court decision would be the perfect occasion for FPJ to prove the sincerity of his declaration to promote the rule of law.

But in Bulacan recently, FPJ evaded the reporters as usual. Instead, Herrera and Angping made the startling revelation that FPJ's camp had decided that he should continue with his candidacy even if the Court finds him unqualified to run because he is not a natural-born Filipino citizen. Their argument, according to columnist Jarius Bondoc, is that sovereignty and political authority emanate from the people, and it is they, not the Court, who will be the ultimate judge.

I submit that to ignore the ruling of the Supreme Court is to invite anarchy and lawlessness. I hope Herrera and Angping, who are both my friends, were not quoted correctly. What they said is the height of irresponsibility and makes a mockery not only of their candidate's avowal to uphold the rule of law but the very rule of law instead.

* * *

Angping and Herrera's declaration reveals a number of disturbing things. One is that the opposition may be sensing that the high court is about to come up with a decision unfavorable to FPJ, and so it is preparing the ground for a new and illegal twist: to let FPJ run whether he is qualified or not. In effect what they are advocating is civil disobedience and anarchy. It seems that the opposition doesn't care what happens to the country, so long as their candidate assumes power. Throw in with this group the Erap camp that just wants to get him off the hook by fair or foul means.

Consider the terrible scenario if the high court rules that FPJ is unqualified and he continues with his candidacy. What will happen is that FPJ's votes will be considered stray. That's a formula for disaster because of the political emotions that preventing the actor from assuming office, in the event that he wins, would generate.

Citizens who love their country should unite as one and reject the opposition's latest formula for disaster. I call on the remaining patriots in the opposition to declare their intention to abide by the high court's decision.

* * *

Our group of media women was recently invited to a delightful getting-to-know-you Japanese lunch at the Tanabe Restaurant in Remedios Circle, Manila, by the Consul General and Deputy Chief of Mission of the Japanese Embassy, Akio Igawa, who came here a few months back after serving in Tanzania. We found Igawa to be very up-to-date on issues as well as the latest RP political *chismis*. He admitted, with a smile, that he sends to the Gaimusho daily political reports, which include the *chismis*. Predictably the luncheon conversation centered on the FPJ candidacy. We asked him if Japan politics has been bugged by celebrities and film stars, too. Igawa-san, with a big laugh, said they do have that too at the local level. In fact, both the governors of Tokyo and Osaka, Japan's two biggest cities, are celebrated TV personalities. But at the national level, where standards tend to be higher, no celebrities have ever been elected (even though Prime Minister Koizumi is often touted as Japan's Richard Gere because of the similarity in their shock of hair). Igawa-san admitted, after incessant questioning, that all the talk about FPJ's illegitimate children would be difficult to justify in Japan, and that foreign investors, including those from Japan, our second-largest trading partner, are rather uneasy about the prospect of seeing FPJ elected to the presidency.

By the way, did you know that Filipinos—about 120,000 of them with contract papers and about 30,000 without such papers—are now the second-largest foreign group in Japan, next only to the Koreans?

Subtext to a love story

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"MILAN" has been promoted as a romantic movie, a love story about two Filipinos abroad, filmed in, of course, Milan and other Italian locales, Rome and Venice included.

But if moviegoers expect to leave the movie house with nothing but warm, fuzzy feelings and *kilig* moments, then they better brace themselves. "What a depressing movie!" I groaned to my daughter as we exited the theater. Still, for those looking for more in a movie than just scrumptious views of Piolo Pascual and—okay—Claudine Barretto *na rin*, "Milan" more than satisfies.

It tells the story of a Filipino (Pascual) who travels to Italy in search of his wife who had left a year earlier and had stopped communicating with him. Traveling to Milan, he meets up with Jenny (Barretto) who takes him in as a bed-spacer and joins him in his search for his missing wife. It goes without saying that, true to movie convention, they end up falling in love.

But in telling the story of this couple, "Milan" proceeds to tell the story of Filipino migrant workers in Italy, including grainy "documentary"-like footage of interviews with "real" OFWs who lend a sobering dose of realism to the otherwise feel-good aura of the film.

In letters to his absent wife, Piolo's character tells her of the life his new-found friends live, their long hours of work, their constant struggle to scrounge for money not just for keeping body and soul together, but also for sending home to an expectant family.

The family back in the Philippines is a constant presence in the characters' lives, not just through endless phone calls with endless requests for more money, but through childhood memories and the role these have played in shaping their personalities, and in some ways, their destinies.

* * *

JENNY is driven not just by her family's constant demands for support, but also by a self-appointed mission to redeem her family from the shame of her father's conviction for estafa, and then to redeem her own self-esteem.

Raised in a comfortable, middle-class home, her equanimity is shattered by the disaster that befalls her father, and the emotional devastation of her family. The task of getting her mother and brother back on their feet falls on Jenny, who is forced to trek the long and dangerous road of migrant work until she ends up in Milan.

But even from a distance, the family back home continues to hound Jenny, who must take on four jobs simultaneously while ever on the look-out for opportunities to make money, from peddling phone cards to renting out her apartment to transients.

In her mind and heart, Jenny feels drained, exhausted by the constant demands and dependency of her family, while trying to shrug off the blows to her self-esteem brought on by her need to engage in what many snooty Filipinos look down on as "demeaning" manual labor.

Piolo's entry into her life ushers Jenny into a new world, one where for once she is the recipient of care and concern, rather than its constant source and provider. But even romance between two extraordinarily good-looking people cannot survive, it seems, the cruel realities of Filipino migrant life.

* * *

THE MOST interesting couple in "Milan," to my mind, is not the pair played by Piolo and Claudine, but the friends and boarders of Jenny.

Both married to partners at home, they lose themselves in a relationship, a common occurrence among overseas workers, it turns out, as borne out by the interviews.

Neither wishes to leave the spouse back home nor to abandon their family. Each is but a temporary shelter for the other, a place to ward off the chill of loneliness and alienation, though no less authentic nor loving a relationship than more conventional arrangements. But disaster strikes when the woman gets pregnant. Heartbreaking indeed is the scene when she tells her husband back home that she cannot go on home leave just yet (she is visibly pregnant) even as her partner has to listen into the intimate conversation.

Long after leaving the theater, the moviegoer wonders what lies in store for them and their child. Perhaps a more or less permanent exile in Milan, with all its uncertainties and loneliness, would be the kindest alternative.

* * *

NOT all the pretty, touristy views of Italy, not even the warmly-lit love scenes of Piolo and Claudine, can quite dispel the sadness and despair that lie just below the surface in this story of life abroad for so many Filipinos.

And to think that Italy is even deemed as one of the best and kindest places for overseas Filipino workers!

The filmmakers could very well have limited "Milan" to a feel-good movie, a love story filmed against the backdrop of Italy. It's courageous of them, then, to have provided the movie's disturbing subtext on the social costs of our labor export policy and program.

In this "Milan" proves an even more effective exposition on the plight of Filipino migrant workers than the award-winning "Anak" which had a DH in Hong Kong as its pivotal character. For one, it captures its audience unawares. Moviegoers come in expecting only a light romance, and then find themselves confronting a political and sociological dilemma.

Our leaders these days give little thought to the labor export policy, paying attention only when they wish to court the overseas vote or seek new territories to ship our people. Isn't it a good thing that it is our artists, the filmmakers of "Milan," in this case, who persist in drawing our attention to the hidden costs of labor export, not the least of which is the heartbreak of exile and alienation?

Seeing the forest and saving the trees

COMMENTARY

Roberto C. Yap, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

THE MORE than 200 deaths due to the landslides and floods in Southern Leyte and Surigao last December are a tragic reminder of our deforestation problem. Although deforestation began many decades ago, we are still vulnerable to its disastrous consequences. The unfortunate incident also reminds us of the urgent need to rehabilitate our denuded lands through massive reforestation or tree planting.

Our reforestation efforts have been pathetic. According to Prof. Rodel Lasco of the UP College of Forestry, at the current rate of reforestation, it will take us more than 100 years to reforest denuded lands. He estimates that we will need $1 billion to reforest two million hectares.

In 1991, the Asian Development Bank provided a $25-million loan for a project to establish forest plantations. However the project was terminated in 1999 with unsatisfactory results. The project planted a total of 6,000 hectares, only about 24 percent of the target of 25,000 hectares. Of the $25 million allocated for the project, only $9.1 million was disbursed. Of the five targeted investors, one was not even able to draw the funds committed to it by the bank, while another only partly utilized the funds it received. Even with financing available, we seem not to be able to get our reforestation act together.

What is needed for us to do better? At least two things. First, we need to recognize that substantial environmental values reside in forests. Second, we need to establish mechanisms so as to capture these values, i.e., give economic incentives for people to protect these values.

During the 1950s up to the 1970s, it seems that the only value we saw in our forests was the timber that could be harvested. Hence, the logging boom which plundered our forests. We failed to see that forests were more than logs to be cut.

The recent landslides are a painful reminder that forests are valuable in controlling soil erosion. Forests provide this ecological service and so much more. We need to recognize that forests are multi-functional, providing a wide variety of environmental services: watershed maintenance, soil stabilization, regulation of atmospheric quality, carbon sequestration, habitats for wildlife, and store of biodiversity.

Forests play an important role in maintaining the watersheds that supply much of our drinking water. Forests prevent soil loss and stabilize the water-holding capacity of the land. Trees cleanse the air by absorbing carbon dioxide and adding oxygen. Forests provide shelter and sanctuary for wildlife. Forests are one big *botica* of various species possessing medicinal and herbal properties.

Our past myopia of seeing our forests merely as a source of timber was due to the thinking that the only way to capture forest values was by cutting and selling logs. The market failed to provide mechanisms to capture the value of ecological services provided by forests.

The forest cannot sell watershed maintenance services and downstream farmers cannot buy such services. There is no legal or institutional basis that allows lowlanders who suffer from soil erosion to receive compensation from timber concessionaires whose logging activities diminish the soil stabilizing capacity of the forests.

It is not enough for forest values to be recognized and demonstrated, mechanisms must be found which give economic incentives to protect these values. One such emerging mechanism holds much promise. The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change allows the capture of the value of carbon sequestration services provided by forests.

By photosynthesis, growing trees absorb carbon dioxide. The biomass of a tree is about 50 percent carbon by weight. Forests store or sequester carbon. By fixing carbon, forests play a major role in mitigating carbon emissions. Carbon dioxide is the major greenhouse gas whose excess emissions hold in too much heat in the atmosphere, block outward radiation and cause global warming. As carbon sinks, forests can help control climate change.

Under the CDM, industrialized countries (e.g., Japan, Canada) can invest in forestry projects in developing countries. These projects could either be reforestation (planting trees on denuded forest land) or afforestation (planting trees on agricultural land). Payments will be made for the carbon being stored in the forests. Revenues can be earned from the carbon sequestered.

This stream of carbon revenue could provide an incentive not only to reforest and afforest but also to keep trees alive and healthy. The loss of carbon revenue could be a disincentive to cut down trees.

Many organizations worldwide are interested in financing forestry projects that sequester carbon. There are at present, around 35 projects with a commitment of $350 million in at least 19 countries, including our Asean neighbors like Malaysia and Indonesia.

The Philippines should avail itself of the opportunities under the CDM to establish forestry projects which will generate carbon revenue. Lasco estimates that there are easily two million hectares of grasslands which could be eligible as CDM forestry projects. We will need to open our eyes to see the immense environmental values of forests and be innovative in protecting these values.

Just another day

YOUNG BLOOD

Bridgette J. Carlos

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I HATE Valentine's Day. I think it is rather over-rated. Maybe I hate it because it just magnifies the fact that I am 25, still single, and never been kissed senseless.

I remember watching "Bridget Jones' Diary" and dreading the day I would reach the age when I would spend my weekends alone in front of a TV, watching mushy love stories, silently cursing the screenwriter for coming up with corny concepts of love but wishing that I were the object of such professions of unending love, while burning my lungs with Lucky Strikes, hoping the smoke would blur the image of a candidate for spinsterhood. Alternatively, I would picture myself drowning in booze, with Celine Dion belting out "All by Myself" irritatingly in the background.

Maybe this all sounds pathetic to those who never felt alone in the field of love. But I have spent many days (and nights) wondering why I am in this state. If truth be told, I am neither stupid nor ugly. I may not have John Nash's IQ, but I am smart and I can be witty. My looks may not make me movie-star material, but I can honestly say that I do make men's heads turn once in a while. I may not be Ms Congeniality, but I can assure you that I have a lively personality.

Sometimes I worry that men are repulsed by the idea that there exists a woman who is both pretty and smart at the same time. Excuse me for saying that, but desperate people sometimes come up with desperate rationalizations.

If most men are bowled over by good looks and some by wit and an interesting personality, then I should have had dozens of suitors by now. Unfortunately, there is none that I can boast of.

I don't smile with bits of parsley trapped in between the spaces of my teeth. My breath doesn't reek of toilets in need of cleaning. I don't go public clad in loud-colored blouses paired with printed ankle-length skirts and matching red, pointed shoes like Sharon Cuneta in one of her forgettable flicks. I have always observed social rules and I take care not to commit any faux pas, so why do I feel like a social embarrassment every time somebody asks if I haven't had any boyfriend? And I feel as if my skull is filled with water instead of brains whenever they ask, rather insensitively, "Why?" I only wish I knew.

Even some of my friends wonder how I was able to stand, for 25 years, not having someone to talk to at the end of a long day, or not having someone to spend special occasions like birthdays and Christmases with, or just having someone to spend time with. I worry about it a lot more than I dare to show, and sometimes I pity myself, but I just have too much pride to openly flaunt my despair.

Nobody can accuse me of lacking confidence, but being unattached to this day makes me feel insecure and in a way inferior. It makes me think there's something wrong with me. During girl talk, I feel like I don't have the right to give advice on matters of the heart since I don't have any first-hand experience on the matter and whatever I have to say may be worthless. In fact, on my bad-hair days, I feel worthless.

Ally McBeal once said, "Love may not work for me, but it makes me happy knowing it works for others." Sorry, but I'm not Ally, and I'm not buying that bull.

Sometimes I get cynical about love and people in love. At one point in my life, I even hated listening to love songs. But can you blame me? I just feel like I've been robbed of something so special that's available to everyone except me.

People who don't know me might think that I don't get along with men. On the contrary, I have a couple of male friends and we get along quite well. But they're just that—friends. And I dare not cross the thin line between friendship and love.

I have dated a couple of times (I can count them on my fingers), madly hoping I'd meet my Prince, but it can get a little tiring specially when you're dating the frog. A friend of mine said maybe I should go out to the field and play more often instead of being a bench warmer. Maybe that's where my problem lies: I'm such a romantic that I expect my man to find me and come charging right up to me on his magnificent horse with promises of endless love (I know, I'm *baduy*).

Of course, in this age of bold and aggressive women who propose and demand to be on top, that idea is passé. And in that case, I admit that Bridget Jones had more courage than me; at least she knew how to get Hugh Grant (even if in the end he turned out to be the wrong man). Sometimes I wish I had the audacity of Carrie Bradshaw when it comes to men. But I guess I just have more of Charlotte in me and I cannot pretend to be someone I'm not, just so I could hook up with a man and have people say, "About time!"

I am getting tired of thinking about it all, of wondering about the reasons I cannot attract men or why love seems to be evading me like the plague. I have grown weary analyzing myself and dreaming of the day when I would finally find my Adam Sandler and begin singing, "I wanna grow old with you."

But this doesn't mean that I'm resigned to being a spinster. The waiting has become more difficult and agonizing, especially now when most of my friends are either married or having a relationship. But I refuse to define happiness and my worth, solely in relation to this aspect of my life.

I'm relatively young (although some would say not that young anymore). I have many more years ahead of me and life has so many more adventures to offer and surprises to unravel. I have always believed that God can read my heart, and He knows what makes me happy. He knows my deepest fears (like ending alone, I guess) and the things that would put me over the edge. He knows I will never be happy living alone without someone special to love and share my life with. It's true that when everything appears hopeless and it seems you can't do anything about it, just leave it all to Him because He knows better. It gives me much peace believing that.

The last time I looked at the calendar, I noted that I had encircled Day 14. I did it not because it was a day I most dread or because I had another date or something. I marked it red because, with a feeling of renewed hope, I knew that this was the last time I was ever going to hate Valentine's Day.

Bridgette J. Carlos, 25, is a medical intern.

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SOS for Social Security System

THIS letter should not have been written were it not for the negligence of those in charge of receiving, recording and checking the members' contributions to the Social Security System.

Here in Maasin City, I was informed by one of the SSS staff that I had "underpaid" my SSS contributions (in voluntary/self-employed category) from May 1997 to December 1997. Acting on the information, I went to the PCIBank branch here to fully pay my "underpayments." That was Jan. 28, 2000.

A year later, to my surprise, when I checked with the SSS, there was no such payment on my record of contributions. I gave a photocopy of my SSS official receipt to a lady at the SSS as evidence of the payment. A month later, when I asked her for it, she told me she had mailed it.

Since then, I have visited the SSS office here three or four times for the sole purpose of checking whether my payment for the "underpayments" had been recorded. As of Jan. 8, 2004, still no such payment appeared on my record. Imagine, it's almost three years now and nothing has happened! Or is there anything happening? And the SSS doesn't even have the courtesy to inform me what the problem is.

I used to work in two prestigious companies in Metro Manila many years back—one in Sta. Mesa, Manila, the other in Salcedo Village, Makati City. In both companies, our bosses did not tolerate nor condone laziness, irresponsibility or negligence among the staff and subordinates. They wanted us to work and speak less. I hope that the SSS division managers would do the same.

As an SSS member, I plead with the SSS administration to please attend to this problem. I have the feeling there are other SSS members who are also victims of SSS negligence.

Are SSS personnel not made to undergo job orientation? Are they not told to serve SSS members faithfully because it is from the SSS members where their fat salaries come from?

—QUIRICO M. GORPIDO JR., Maasin City, Southern Leyte

Exasperated faithful PDI subscriber

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

DENR's side on sale of wildlife

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Last year, the team confiscated a total of 46 assorted birds and two adult pythons, among other things. An intensified information campaign in the area also resulted in the voluntary turnover by concerned groups of five glass owls, a falcon and a sea eagle.

The DENR has also put under close watch several restaurants and eateries suspected of serving wildlife delicacies in the area.

The DENR may not be able to solve all our environmental problems overnight, but rest assured that we will do everything we can to protect and conserve our wildlife resources.

—REGIDOR M. DE LEON, regional executive director, Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Region 3, MacArthur Highway, Baliti, San Fernando, Pampanga

Stakes in Norway sea tragedy

THE GOVERNMENT should immediately send a team of maritime experts to attend to the case and take care of the victims of the Rocknes tragedy in Bergen, Norway.

As you know, it is not enough that only the Philippine ambassador is sent to care for the victims, attend the public hearings, and protect our national interest.

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It is therefore important that the Filipino comes out of this tragedy still the winner and still the much sought-after seafarer of the world. We must not sleep on this case as another passing tragedy because we may end up with nothing. Our condolences to the orphans of this tragedy. Let us turn our grief into vigilance so that we would not be left out the loser.

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—MALOLI ESPINOSA-MANALASTAS, vice president, Government, Corporate Affairs and Public Relations, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., Quezon City

SOS for Social Security System

THIS letter should not have been written were it not for the negligence of those in charge of receiving, recording and checking the members' contributions to the Social Security System.

Here in Maasin City, I was informed by one of the SSS staff that I had "underpaid" my SSS contributions (in voluntary/self-employed category) from May 1997 to December 1997. Acting on the information, I went to the PCIBank branch here to fully pay my "underpayments." That was Jan. 28, 2000.

A year later, to my surprise, when I checked with the SSS, there was no such payment on my record of contributions. I gave a photocopy of my SSS official receipt to a lady at the SSS as evidence of the payment. A month later, when I asked her for it, she told me she had mailed it.

Since then, I have visited the SSS office here three or four times for the sole purpose of checking whether my payment for the "underpayments" had been recorded. As of Jan. 8, 2004, still no such payment appeared on my record. Imagine, it's almost three years now and nothing has happened! Or is there anything happening? And the SSS doesn't even have the courtesy to inform me what the problem is.

I used to work in two prestigious companies in Metro Manila many years back—one in Sta. Mesa, Manila, the other in Salcedo Village, Makati City. In both companies, our bosses did not tolerate nor condone laziness, irresponsibility or negligence among the staff and subordinates. They wanted us to work and speak less. I hope that the SSS division managers would do the same.

As an SSS member, I plead with the SSS administration to please attend to this problem. I have the feeling there are other SSS members who are also victims of SSS negligence.

Are SSS personnel not made to undergo job orientation? Are they not told to serve SSS members faithfully because it is from the SSS members where their fat salaries come from?

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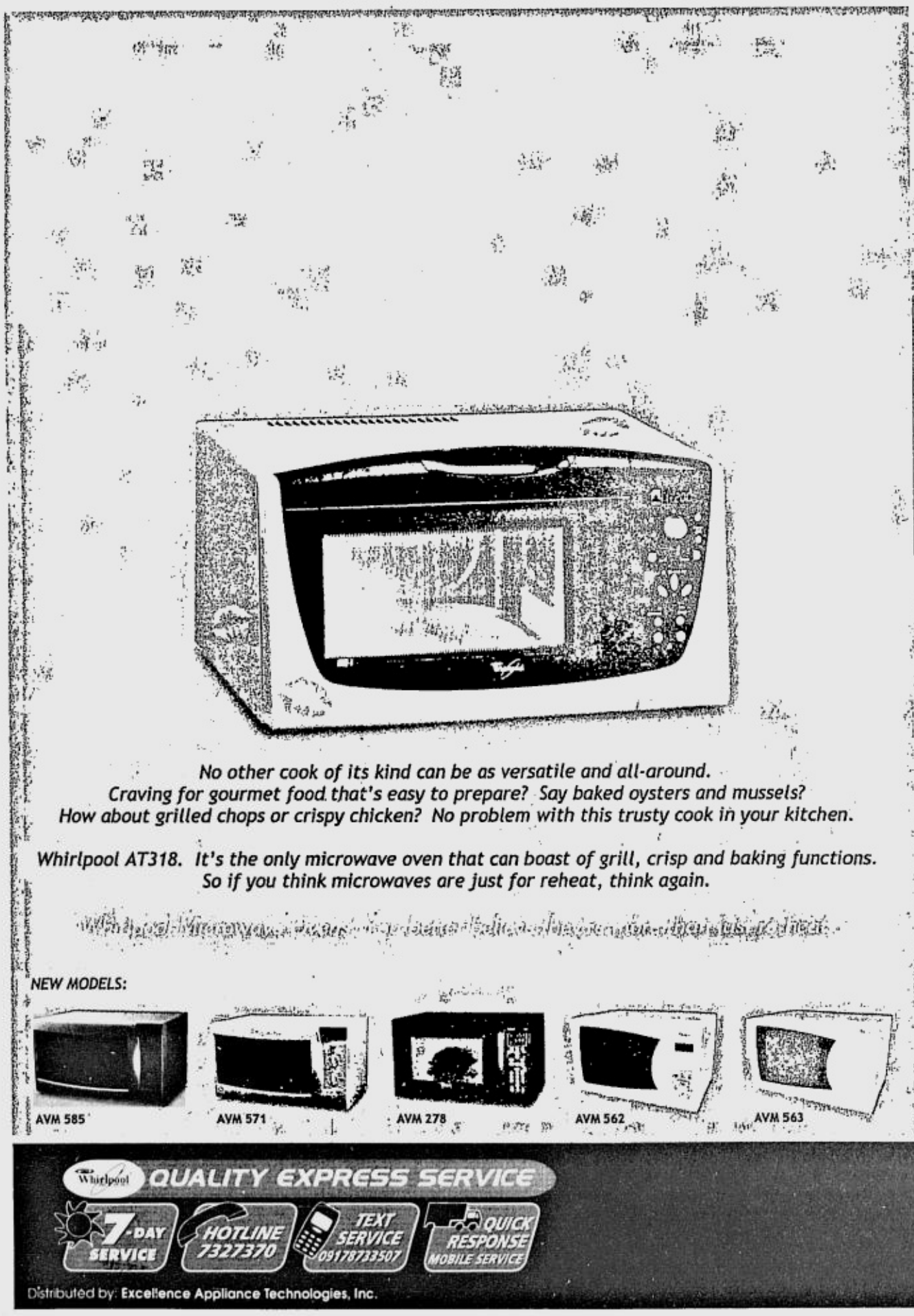

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COLONY EDWIN BACASMAS
An unidentified man takes a closer look at a colony of bees that gathered on a grill of a fence around the Barasoain Church in Malolos, Bulacan, probably wondering what attracts the bees to the iron grill.

Anti-FPJ lawyers describe meeting as 'accidental'

DAVAO CITY—The three lawyers who separately filed disqualification charges against presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. were in town on Wednesday, the same day Sen. Panfilo Lacson kicked off his provincial sortie here.

But Victorino Fornier, Zoilo Velez and Jeanette Tecson said their meeting was accidental.

The three lawyers attended a press conference held at the Marco Polo Hotel to talk about their petitions, which they separately filed with the Supreme Court.

During the press conference, they rejected insinuations that the Macapagal administration and other political parties influenced their petitions.

Poe is seen as the next president because of his popularity, especially with the masses.

His supporters branded the petition as a desperate attempt to derail his bid for Malacañang.

But the three lawyers have denied other parties influenced their actions.

"There is no conspiracy. If anybody is benefited from this, it is certainly unintentional," Fornier said.

Fornier said his initiative to file a petition for Poe's disqualification on the ground of citizenship "was purely my own."

"We are accused of grand conspiracy. This I filed as a lawyer, a taxpayer and as a voter," he said.

Tecson contends that Poe "is not at all a Filipino citizen and therefore not qualified to run."

"This is an issue of national interest. A valid legal question that all of us would like to raise," she said.

Tecson said she has been drawing inspiration from clients and even friends from overseas "who do not want Poe to be the next leader."

Velez also denied having been pressured saying he filed the case because there is a "clear judiciable issue at hand."

The Commission on Elections recently rejected the petitions. *Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Coast Guard starts search for Korean

LAOAG CITY—A search and rescue team of the Coast Guard started scouring the Pagudpud Bay in Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte, in search of a Korean who was reported missing on Wednesday after he and two others went scuba diving.

Supt. Rolando Rabara, Ilocos Norte police director, said local rescue units started the search after scuba diving instructor Choi Yung Sun reported that his two companions, Lee Coek Ho and Kim Dong Jun, were missing at around 4 p.m. Wednesday.

Kim was found in nearby Bangui Bay on Thursday morning. The team was still searching for Lee as of 3 p.m. Thursday.

Rabara said the three hired a pump boat and set out to sea on Wednesday afternoon. He said Choi returned to the boat after noticing it had gone far from their dive site. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BALIKATAN '04

Palawan prepares for war games

By Jofelle P. Tesorio and Geraldford P. Ticke
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Preparations for the Balikatan 2004 in Palawan have intensified. The advanced party of the United States and the Philippine Armed Forces and equipment for field training exercises started to arrive weeks ago.

Capt. Burrell Parmer, public information officer for Balikatan exercises of the US Armed Forces, said the equipment composed of generators, tents, hammerheads, forklifts, seven-ton trucks, tents, communications equipment and other heavy equipment will be used for the Combined Task Force Seminar and Command Post Exercise (CPX) and for humanitarian and civic assistance for 21 barangays in this city.

These include the construction and repair of school buildings and clinics, road repairs, veterinary civic action projects, medical and dental missions.

Parmer said there would not be any field training exercises on ground in Palawan. "The movements will be confined inside Western Command," he said. Field training exercises that include live fire activities will be done in Central Luzon.

Soldiers going outside the camp would be on medical or humanitarian missions, he said.

Wescom authorities, in a press release, also denied that the exercise would be held in the Spratlys group of islands from Feb. 23 to March 7.

Parmer told the INQUIRER that the exercises to be done here would involve only command post exercises to be held at the Camp Gen. Antonio Ricarte and community assistance in the different barangays of the city.

Wescom public information officer Maj. Livy Malagueño also said that "definitely, there will be no exercises or whatsoever to be held in Spratlys."

"The CPX will involve simulated trainings through computers which will all be held inside the camp," Parmer said. "Aside from this, medical and dental services will also be extended to some barangays in the city as part of the Balikatan," he added.

Balikatan '04 will involve 2,300 Filipino and 2,500 American troops, which will join the exercises in Wescom, Clark Air Base in Pampanga, Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija and Ternate, Cavite.

In Palawan, however, no exact number of forces were given by the Combined Information Bureau although Wescom officials have earlier said that around 700 to 750 will be involved.

But despite the fact that Balikatan has yet to start on Feb. 23, engineering works have already started since early this month in the barangays including school building construction and repair.

The exercise, according to Parmer, will improve combined planning, combat readiness and inter-operability of US and Philippine military forces. He added that it would demonstrate the US resolve to support the Philippines against external aggression consistent with the Mutual Defense Treaty and Visiting Forces Agreement between the two nations.

He added that the American troops would mostly come from US bases in Okinawa and Hawaii.

Non-government organizations expressed alarm that prostitution would be encouraged with the arrival of American soldiers.

Parmer said the rest and recreation aspect of the exercise in Palawan depends on the commander of each troop.

"We are here to work and we have a very hard schedule. But it is on the discretion of the commanders if they provide liberty to the troops," Parmer said.

The city licensing division and the Philippine National Police said they would also closely monitor activities of nightspots so as not to promote prostitution in Palawan.

Court upholds power of LGUs to regulate lotto operations

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—A regional trial court here has upheld the power of the local government unit to regulate lotto operations by requiring operators to secure a mayor's permit.

In a five-page decision dated Jan. 29, 2004, Judge Ibarra Jaculbe Jr. of the RTC Branch 42 dismissed the petition of lotto operator Medy Maxima Vilan for declaratory relief and injunction with a prayer for a temporary restraining order against Mayor Agustin Perdices and the province of Negros Oriental.

The petition was filed after Perdices ordered the closure of Vilan's lotto outlet because of her failure to secure a mayor's permit.

Perdices' order was based on Ordinance No. 4 of the Negros Oriental provincial government requiring lotto operators to secure a provincial franchise before they apply for a mayor's permit.

The same closure order was given to the five other lotto outlets in Dumaguete, which Perdices made as a campaign promise in the 2001 elections.

Vilan, as well as the other lotto operators, argued that their business operation is backed by Republic Act 1569, as amended by Batas Pambansa Blg. 42 and Presidential Decree 771, which allowed the PCSO to sell and conduct its business throughout the country. She said that as such, their business is expressly exempted from the authority of the local government unit to impose taxes, fees or charges and permits.

Vilan cited a favorable ruling for her argument by the Court of Appeals in the case of Andres Rivas Jr. vs Hon. Alvin Garcia of Cebu City.

But Judge Jaculbe agreed with the city government, which said that Republic Act 7160 has repealed the case of Rivas vs Garcia that was cited by Vilan.

Jaculbe said that the laws cited by Vilan were all repealed when RA 7160 took effect on Jan. 1, 1992.

In Sec. 193 of RA 7160, tax exemption privileges were withdrawn from all natural or juridical persons, including government owned or controlled corporations, except local water districts and cooperatives registered with the Cooperative Development Authority, non-stock, non-profit hospitals and educational institutions.

Judge Jaculbe supported his decision by citing the Supreme Court ruling of Mactan Cebu International Airport Authority vs Ferdinand J. Marcos, which was promulgated on September 11, 1996.

Mayoral bet's car yields chemicals, guns, ammunition

CABANATUAN CITY—Police arrested a candidate for mayor in Sta. Rosa town and his two companions after police found guns, bullets and materials for making bombs in their car on Wednesday afternoon.

Arrested were Antonio Romero, who is running for mayor of Sta. Rosa, and his companions Pedro Padilla and Anastacio de Lara.

Reports said Romero allowed the policemen to search his car when they showed him a search warrant issued earlier by Judge Mercedes Lacap of the regional trial court in Manila. The warrant was issued for a pending case of illegal possession of firearms filed against Romero.

Found in Romero's car, according to the police, were a bag containing chemicals and plastic blasting caps commonly used for making bombs, an AK-47 rifle, a .45 cal. Colt pistol, an Uzi machine pistol, five firearms magazines and bullets.

Reports said Romero, who was driving the car, was stopped at 3:20 p.m. at the checkpoint manned by a police team led by Supt. Rhoderick Armamento, chief of the Nueva Ecija police's intelligence and investigation bureau, and Supt. Marlon Bingcang, Sta. Rosa police chief.

Armamento and Bingcang were in the checkpoint to serve the warrant on Romero.

Reports said the police officials asked Romero to go with them to the police headquarters here, 8 km from the checkpoint.

Two policemen accompanied Romero in his car but one of the policemen saw an AK-47 rifle under the car seat and later tipped off his officers.

It was at the police headquarters where Romero asked for a search warrant before allowing policemen to search his car.

Reports said police had asked the Philippine National Police crime laboratory here to examine the bomb materials and chemicals found in Romero's car if they would match the bomb fragments recovered in three bombings in the last four weeks in Cabanatuan City and Sta. Rosa town. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Ex-OFWs rebuild 'lost' lives, loves

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao
Llorente, Eastern Samar

DOLLARS or family? For many wives and mothers from the sleepy agricultural town of Llorente, Eastern Samar, who are desperately looking for ways to augment their family income, the choice has come to that.

These "modern Filipino heroes" make the painful decision to leave their husbands and children in exchange for the chance to earn much more abroad, mostly as caregivers or domestic helpers.

And for at least the first few years abroad, life was comparatively good.

Even though they worked hard, it was well worth it because they were able to send enough money home to help send their children to good schools and even build a house for their families left here.

Then tragedy struck home and many women eventually lost much more than they bargained for.

Mary Catinoy was one of the many unfortunate ones. She worked abroad from 1990 to 1995, three years in Saudi Arabia and another two years as a caregiver in Taiwan.

Catinoy was widowed then and left the care of her two children to her parents. It was while she was in Taiwan when she got the sad news that her eldest son, who was stricken with polio, suddenly died. He was only 9 years old.

The woman said it was only much later when her young daughter told her that he must have died out of neglect. The bedridden boy was left on his own in a separate room, as her parents, who were supposed to take good care of him, were supervising the construction of the house that was bankrolled by Catinoy's remittances.

Same fate

Rosita Gura's fate was not much different. She worked as a domestic helper in Hong Kong from 1984 to 1999. When she left, the youngest of her four children was not yet 2 years old.

Gura was forced to return home because she learned that her husband became a philanderer and failed to take care of the family.

One of their daughters got pregnant at only 13 years old. She gave birth prematurely to twins, but they soon died.

It was then that Gura decided to leave Hong Kong and stay home for good. She feared that the same thing would happen to her other daughter if she was not around to keep the family together.

Fish out of water

But how different life was in Llorente now that she, Catinoy and the other OFW returnees decided to stay and take off from where they left so many years ago.

In many ways, they said they were like fish out of water because they were used to earning much more money and to the fast pace that working abroad offered.

It is for them that the Religious of the Virgin Mary (RVM) sisters want to reach out through its social action arm, the Mother Ignacia National Social Apostolate Center (Minsac).

The Minsac program developed a program called "Women Development and Assistance Program" with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and funded by Ford Foundation, to provide spiritual, physical and economic assistance to women OFWs in crisis, women who were either abused or, like Catinoy and Gura, simply found it difficult to recover from where they left off.

Sr. Adriana Lastico heads the Minsac in Llorente, which was organized in November last year.

The center for OFW returnees sits on a small property originally intended for a school, which now hosts the many meetings intended to help the women pick up pieces of their disrupted lives.

Lastico said one of the biggest hurdles that she had to overcome with the returnees was their mindset that the center was merely a place for them to get financial assistance.

The right message

There was a misconception, she said, that the center was set up for them to get substitute jobs for the ones they had to resign from, either because their contracts expired or due to pressing family concerns.

This was why from around 25 OFWs who came to the center when it began, the number has gone down to just nine.

"The original orientation that they had was different, so we did some reorganization in September and what we are trying to do now is to get these OFWs to go through other trainings, such as on leadership, to help them reintegrate to society and their families," Lastico said.

She, however, said that through the help of the nine OFWs, who have undergone peer counseling sessions, they would be able to spread the right message to others in Llorente and nearby towns in Eastern Samar.

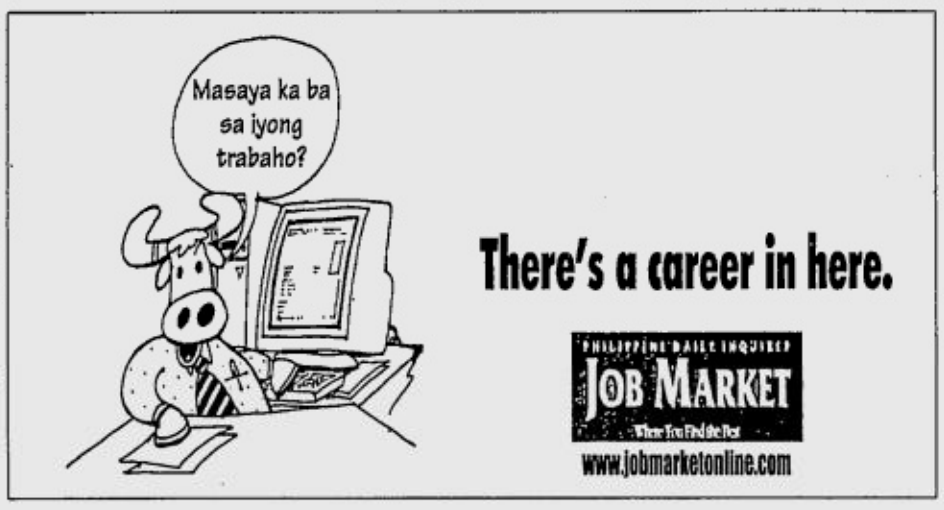
"They really need help, but on the surface they seem fine. There is a big barrier there that we have to slowly overcome. It takes time for them to open up and really tell us what they need for us to help them," Lastico said.

Aside from the Minsac center in Llorente, the RVM operates one in Barangay Calingatngan in the capital town of Borongan. The congregation also operates schools in the area.

Lastico said the RVM was currently organizing OFW families on Divinovo Island, off Borongan, with about 20 OFW families, and was hoping to put up a center there.

While the sisters are passionate about helping the returnees rediscover their lives, former OFWs like Catinoy try to dissuade other mothers from leaving their families and going abroad. They spread the word that there really is no substitute to having a complete family at home.

"It is really different when the mother is there to take care of the children. There is no substitute even if the parents or the father are there. So unless there really is no other choice, then choose the family over the money," Catinoy said in Waray.



Trial of Javier murder comes to a close

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
San Jose, Antique

THE QUEST for justice for slain former Antique Gov. Evelio Javier drew closer after the trial of the 18-year-old case ended on Feb. 10, on the eve of his death anniversary.

The conclusion brings hope of a final closure of the case for Javier and the accused, many of whom have been in jail for 18 years.

Judge Rudy Castrojas, presiding judge of Branch 12 of the Antique Regional Trial Court, ordered both prosecution and defense panels to submit their memorandums by March 30 after the prosecution ended its rebuttal of the presentation of evidence of the accused.

Castrojas, the fifth judge to handle the case, is required under court rules to issue a decision within 90 days after the case is submitted for resolution.

Begun in 1987, the trial was suspended for nearly 10 years after the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order in 1989 and lifted it in 1998.

Both optimistic

Both prosecution and defense are optimistic that the court will rule in their favor.

Former Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador, who is detained at the provincial jail in the capital town of San Jose, said the prosecutors failed to give justice to Javier by continuing to "fabricate evidence" against the accused.

Pacificador, a close ally of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, has been tagged as mastermind of the killing. He is accused of murder, frustrated murder and attempted murder.

Also accused are Pacificador's son Rodolfo, lawyer Avelino Javellana, Eduardo "Boy Muslim" Iran, John Paloy, Vicente Vegafria, Ramon Hortillano, Henry Salaver, Eleazar Idemne, Rolando Bernardino, Oscar Tiauson, Jimmy Punzalan and three others known only as Akay, Nonoy, Totong and Dolfo.

"They [the prosecutors] have not presented an iota of real evidence against us," said Pacificador.

He said he "feels sorry" for Javier even as he continued to deny that he was behind the killing of his political rival.

"I pray that he [Javier] will rest in peace," said Pacificador, who despite being detained is running for vice governor of Antique.

Former Philippine Constabulary Capt. John Paloy, one of the accused who has been detained for 18 years, said he was praying hard that they would be acquitted "so I can start to pick up the pieces of my life."

Travesty

But for private prosecutor Aurelio Trampe, he believed justice would be finally served after the long years of litigation with a conviction of the accused.

Javier's son, Francis Gideon, lamented the prolonged trial. "It has been so long it has become a travesty," he said.

Gideon said he believed in his "heart" that Pacificador and his co-accused were responsible for his father's death. "You would have to be blind to believe otherwise."

Gideon, who was 16 years old when his father died, led friends and former colleagues of the slain governor in unveiling Javier's bronze statue at the Roxas Boulevard Baywalk. The statue stands beside that of the late Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., who was also killed during the Marcos dictatorship.

In San Jose, residents commemorated Javier's martyrdom with a Mass, wreath-laying at his monument at the public plaza, and a concert featuring music in Kiniray-a, the local language.

Javier, then a leader of the anti-Marcos movement, was monitoring the canvassing of votes of the 1986 "snap" presidential election at the public plaza when armed men aboard two vehicles shot him while he was talking with supporters.

The governor was hit in the right shoulder during the initial burst of gunfire but managed to run and hide inside a bathroom at the back of the house of businessman Leon Pe. The gunmen, allegedly led by Boy Muslim, one of the country's most wanted criminals, finished off Javier at the bathroom 250 meters away from the plaza.

Sacrifice

Fondly called "Beloy" by his provincemates, Javier has been revered as a hero. His death anniversary is a special non-working holiday on Panay Island, and many significant places in Antique have been named after him.

"If I could speak to my father today, I would like to tell him that his sacrifice was worth it," said Gideon.

But he said he was very disappointed with the kind of politics and political leaders the country had today. "I wish though that I can tell him that we have grown up as a people and that our politics has taken a different, nobler character."

He said so much energy had been wasted in squabbles among politicians, even in Antique where his uncle, Rep. Exequiel Javier, and Perez have been at odds since shortly after the 2001 elections.

He said he did not expect today's politicians to be like his father whom he said possessed "extraordinary qualities" as a leader.

"But is simple and honest-to-goodness desire to serve the people too much to ask?" he said.

With elections approaching, Gideon called on the people to "go out with the freedom that we have and do our country good."

"We can no longer depend on most politicians and continue to be swayed and fooled by them," he said.

Poe tough in movie talk

From page A1

can expect that all of us (in the opposition coalition) will not withdraw (from the elections)."

Suspicions fueled

Poe's feisty remarks fueled suspicions his camp was preparing the groundwork for a civil disobedience campaign, in case the Supreme Court disqualifies him.

They came a day after his lawyer, ex-Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza, raised the specter of public unrest and on the same day one of his senatorial candidates, Francisco Tatad, claimed that the SC had already ruled against the actor.

Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, who is also running for a Senate seat on Poe's ticket, said the standard-bearer will "continue with the campaign" even if he is disqualified by the Supreme Court.

"If he is disqualified, this will be the greatest fraud that will be pulled on the Filipino people," Dilangalen said. "The Filipino people want FPJ to become President."

Asked whether such a campaign would violate such a ruling, Dilangalen, a lawyer, said: "The Supreme Court itself had violated the Constitution."

Dilangalen was referring to the series of landmark decisions by the tribunal which upheld the constitutionality of the ouster of President Joseph Estrada and the legitimacy of the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Tatad said the opposition "cannot accept and we will not accept" a decision disqualifying Poe.

Asked to sketch a scenario resulting from Poe's disqualification, Tatad said: "I would not be able to predict anything because I don't believe the masses who have expressed intense support for FPJ will take this sitting down."

Political blackmail

But one of the lawyers who petitioned the SC to disqualify Poe said yesterday the actor's supporters should stop using "political blackmail" to prevent the tribunal from ruling on the issue.

"The disqualification case against FPJ is not a political but a legal one. We are all entitled to the truth," said Victorino Fornier in a statement.

"I think the Supreme Court is taking this case seriously and I advise our colleagues to let the court decide on this," he added.

Fornier said Poe's allies should stop making assumptions that the people would take up arms if Poe were disqualified.

"All those predictions of chaos are unfounded. The sooner this is resolved and the sooner the truth is known, the better it will be for the country, even for Mr. Poe," Fornier said.

EDWIN BACASMAS

FERNANDO Poe-Loren Legarda tandem receives warm welcome in Bataan.

He dismissed calls by politicians for the SC to let the people themselves decide through the elections if Poe is qualified to run, saying that such statements were "undemocratic."

"We have a representative form of government. Our senators and congressmen should be the ones to know that the people are deciding this case through (the) Supreme Court," Fornier said.

"If we let the people directly decide on this, then we should hold referenda every time a case is filed with the Supreme Court," he added.

Fornier also disputed Mendoza's assertion that the Supeme Court can take jurisdiction over the disqualification case only after the elections.

"When the case was with the Comelec (Commission on Elections), he kept on saying it had no jurisdiction. Now that the case is with the Supreme Court, he is saying the Court has no jurisdiction and that it should be with the Comelec," Fornier said.

Change in tone

The change in tone in Poe's campaign was marked, because he had tried to cool supporters' passions when campaigning in Angeles City on Thursday evening.

Speaking in Filipino before a crowd of around 3,000 (based on police estimates), Poe said: "I won't do any hitting now because we're not getting hit tonight."

"Cool *muna tayo* (Let's play it cool)," Poe said. "*Huwag muna* (At least not now)."

Poe had barnstormed through Pampanga on Thursday, and the evening's rally was the first time he addressed a crowd.

Poe chose to remind the audience that through his movies, he had a strong connection to Pampanga, the President's bailiwick.

"I did several films here in Pampanga," he said. "I did my first movie in (the town of) Mexico."

Poe said that he must have appeared or directed about 20 movies in different places in the province, such as Porac and Candaba.

Meanwhile, campaigning in Compostela Valley, opposition presidential candidate Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday said he was not referring to Poe's campaign when he lashed out at the idea of paying show business personalities for campaign entertainment and endorsements.

Lacson made the statement after former President Joseph Estrada, whom he had served as PNP chief, criticized his closest friend in the police and armed services for making statements against show biz personalities making a circus of the presidential campaign, which Lacson had called "a very serious matter."

"I understand President Estrada well when he made those statements. I know he would be particularly sensitive to the issue since he was once part of show business," Lacson told reporters.

"I was not referring to the FPJ campaign when I said things about show biz people in the campaign. I know those artists are volunteers for FPJ because he himself is an actor," said the presidential bet of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino. ***With reports from Philip Tubeza and Norman Bordadora***

Roco offers FPJ job if he is disqualified

By Michael Lim Ubac

LEGAZPI CITY—Alyansa ng Pag-Asa presidential candidate Raul Roco has predicted that the Supreme Court would eventually rule opposition coalition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr. out of the presidential race. In that case, Roco said, he would offer Poe a job in his administration.

At a news briefing on Thursday night, the former senator said there were strong indications that the high court would find that Poe was not a natural-born citizen, and thus was disqualified from seeking the presidency.

He did not provide details, however.

But should the SC rule to disqualify Poe, and "supposing everything is aboveboard and legal, we will offer FPJ a position in the next government," Roco said. The Bicolano politician maintained that most voters would support him over President Macapagal-Arroyo if Poe dropped out of the running.

Roco downplayed the specter of civil unrest similar to Edsa I and II. "Edsa (revolt)? It really depends (on several factors but) I don't think that there is that deep a commitment for Da King." Poe, a movie industry leader, is known by that nickname.

New appointee

Roco also vouched for the integrity of newly appointed SC Associate Justice Minita Nazario, saying oppositionists should not ask her to inhibit herself from the citizenship case.

"She should vote," said Roco, noting that while Nazario, the former presiding justice of the Sandiganbayan, was appointed by the President, herself running for a full term, "there are grounds for disqualification based on the rules of court."

He said all the protagonists in the case should trust the judgment and integrity of Nazario to cast a fair and impartial vote.

Roco clarified that he was not out to belittle Poe's capabilities. "I'm only saying and in fact I petitioned the SC to decide immediately because (doing so will be) fair to him, to us, to all the Filipino people ... because we don't know our (real) rivals."

Short of asking the actor to sacrifice his presidential ambitions for the sake of the country, Roco said: "So he should not be running for President. We offer him cooperation. If he truly wants to serve, (then he should) create the Philippine Hollywood. Replace the imported telenovelas. Show excellence. He's the king of the movies in the Philippines. Make him show, make him lead in that respect."

He said the actor would be given the task of developing a "Filipino Hollywood" similar to India's Bollywood.

What if Poe rejects the offer?

"Whether he will accept it or not, there is a role (reserved for him in a Roco administration). Entertainment must be used for education," he added.

Roco believes that Poe's more than 40 years experience on the silver screen is indispensable to the fulfillment of his Agenda of Hope's thrust to utilize the diverse Filipino culture and heritage to bring back pride in the Filipino race.

"If only Filipinos are allowed to freely practice our culture, they'll (other nations will) eat dust. We must strengthen the Filipino culture," said Roco.

No ruling yet on FPJ, SC insists

From page A1

court will hear oral arguments on the case on Thursday.

"Until then, I urge everyone not to rely on these rumors but only on the official pronouncements to be issued by the Supreme Court concerning such a delicate issue," Khan said.

"I don't know who is peddling these rumors but they are false," he added.

Tatad's claim

In Mariveles, Bataan, one of Poe's candidates for the Senate said the opposition had received reports that certain justices of the Supreme Court were already committed to disqualify the actor.

"There are reports to this effect that justices have been overheard to have said that they are ready to proceed against our candidate," ex-Sen. Francisco Tatad said. "I hope the justices of the Supreme Court, for the first time in three years, will follow the law and be an instrument of peaceful electoral process rather than something else."

Tatad, the Marcos-era press secretary who read the proclamation of martial law on TV, has attacked the court's historic decisions confirming the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration. Last November, he said the country's woes would disappear if President Macapagal-Arroyo simply stepped down from office.

'Very disturbing'

But yesterday, Tatad did not provide details of the reports he described as "very disturbing."

Tatad noted that the high court's decision to appoint four "friends of the court" could be part of a grand design to take Poe out of the presidential race.

"We are afraid that they are preparing the stage for something sinister," he said.

Tatad explained that by appointing the "amici curiae," the tribunal was laying the ground for eventually washing its hands of an adverse decision.

Tatad warned that the opposition may not be able to restrain Poe's followers if the actor is disqualified.

"If we are deprived of our presidential candidate due to reasons which I believe are totally unacceptable, then we would not be in a position to impose our will on our people in the grassroots," Tatad said.

In a statement, Poe's Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino called on the Supreme Court to decide the petitions "on the merits, instead of being swayed by any political considerations."

Palace appeal

But Malacañang appealed to all parties to let the Supreme Court do its job and stop airing warnings of civil unrest in case of an adverse ruling.

In a briefing, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said it was unfair of the Poe camp to "prejudge" the justices as biased against the movie actor since the high court has ruled "fairly and equitably" in the past.

Bunye said the high tribunal should be respected and obeyed as the final arbiter of the country's laws. "Everybody should just wait for the SC's decision in the case instead of talking about possible scenarios on the verdict," Bunye said.

He said the warnings aired by the Poe camp, specifically his lawyer Estelito Mendoza, of a people's uprising were uncalled for.

"Talk of civil unrest is not good, especially if it comes from lawyers who are supposed to be officers of the court and who should take the lead in following the high court's order," Bunye said.

Aside from warning of mass protests, Mendoza also claimed that the high court had no jurisdiction over the case because it could only hear the disqualification case after the May 10 elections.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, an administration party official, condemned Mendoza for his threat of civil unrest.

Pichay said that as an officer of the court, Mendoza should uphold the rule of law and not attempt to intimidate the high tribunal. "Mendoza should be the first to invoke the rule of law and the last to threaten unrest in defiance of the law," he said.

Legal eagles

The legal eagles the high court invited were retired Associate Justice Vicente Mendoza, former 1986 constitutional commission member Fr. Joaquin Bernas S.J., former University of the Philippines College of Law Dean Merlin Magallona and UP law professor Ruben Balane.

The high court also gave the respondents in the petitions until Monday to file their comments.

Fornier, who filed the initial disqualification case against Poe before the Commission on Elections, said Poe was not a natural-born Filipino citizen because he was born on Aug. 20, 1939 as an illegitimate son of Allan F. Poe and American Bessie Kelley, and thus should have followed the citizenship of his mother.

He said that even if Poe was later legitimized, the candidate still could not be considered a natural-born Filipino citizen, which the law defines as a citizen of the the country "from birth without having to perform any act to acquire or perfect his Philippine citizenship."

"Hence, even if a claim of legitimation of (Poe) were sustained by virtue of the belated marriage of his parents (on Sept. 16, 1940), he still cannot be considered a natural-born citizen because he was not and could not claim to have been a Filipino on the date of his birth. At best, he would only be considered a Filipino citizen on the date of the marriage of his parents," Fornier said. ***With reports from Cynthia Balana and Michael Lim Ubac***

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JUNJIE MENDOZA/CEBU DAILY NEWS

Old grading system revived; 70 is passing

From page A1

the October 2003 second grading period.

Temporary

The education secretary acknowledged the complaints from teachers that many of their students fared poorly during the third grading period because of the new grading system.

But De Jesus clarified that the guidelines contained in the new department order were only transitional to give teachers and students time to make the adjustment and that the new system would still push through.

The new system, imposed last October through DepEd Order 79 and designed to supposedly "truly reflect student performance," raised the passing mark to 75 from 70, redesigned the content of examinations and discontinued the use of "transmutation tables."

The new rating system requires students to pass each of the four quarters of the school year instead of only the final grading period. It does away with the system of transmutation tables, which gives an equivalent grade for the total number of points earned by a student.

Teachers had been using the transmutation tables to arrive at grades based on test scores.

Defective, deceptive

A teacher could give a passing grade of say 75 even if the student correctly answered only one-fourth of the items in a 100-item test.

De Jesus said the old grading system did not accurately reflect a student's competence. He described the old grading system as "inherently defective and inherently deceptive."

He told teachers to record the raw scores, total these scores at the end of the grading period, then compute them as percentages. He fixed 75 percent as the passing mark.

The Alliance of Concerned Teachers and the Metro Manila Public School Teachers Association, however, have protested the strict guidelines, saying they made many students flunk their subjects.

Gradual

During a dialogue with DepEd officials last month, they warned that "millions" of students would fail.

Teachers said the new system would also adversely affect the chances of Grade 6 pupils and high-school seniors getting into high school and college.

With the new department order, De Jesus appears to have relented a little.

"After obtaining feedback on the third-grading period results from the field, the department has deemed it necessary to introduce additional guidelines to ease the transition into the new... grading system," he said in his latest order.

"Rather than immediately impose higher norms, the guidelines will allow the gradual raising of academic standards to the desired levels," he added.

De Jesus also eased up on competency guidelines for the content of test questions aimed at "[distinguishing] the fast learners" from the rest.

Guidelines

He allowed the teachers to make the tests for the fourth grading period somewhat easier.

The tests would now be 70 percent "easy item," 20 percent "moderately difficult" and 10 percent "difficult."

The previous guidelines called for 60 percent "easy items" focused on basic skills, 30 percent moderately difficult and 10 percent difficult.

But De Jesus stressed that transmutation tables would not be used to compute the final grade.

In an interview last week, De Jesus told reporters that the DepEd wants to arrest the practice of passing students to the next level regardless of their competence.

"What we're saying is teachers should pay attention to what they actually teach the students which should be the basis of exams. We're just transferring the teachers' priority from the mechanical process of giving grades because of the transmutation table to focusing on how closely the students are achieving the learning outcome," he said.

Be faithful, bishops tell those in love

From page A1

mans whom God has made in His likeness. "Choose love as your personal life principle. Be unselfish. Unconditional love is really the path to true human joy," the CBCP said.

The bishops defended their stance against divorce, saying that the sacramentality of marriage dictates that spouses are bound to one another "in the most dissoluble manner. The bond of sacramental marriage lasts until the death of one of the spouses," as cited in the catechesis on the sacred heart of Jesus and the merciful love of God.

Marriage as foundation

Marriage, as the foundation of the community, is ordained for the procreation and ordination of children who are God-fearing and responsible.

Like the rest of the world, couples are expected to spend Valentine's Day together. Originally a Western European Christian holiday, Valentine's Day was celebrated in memory of the martyrdom of St. Valentine in AD 270, who, in medieval times, came to be associated with the union of lovers under conditions of duress.

The CBCP, however, appealed to people to use this time to consecrate themselves to Jesus for the sanctification of priests and the renewal of the Christian life.

GMA, Ping together in PMA reunion

From page A1

stash millions of pesos in laundered money.

Also anticipated is the participation of Class '95, among whose members are the leaders of the Magdalo group that mounted the failed mutiny in Makati last July.

Politics in air

"Instead of the cool mountain breeze and pine scent of Baguio, politics is in the air. This year, we will see a homecoming laced with politics rather than the traditional camaraderie between cavaliers," an alumnus, who requested anonymity, told the INQUIRER.

The last time Lacson attended the PMA alumni homecoming was during the term of ousted President Joseph Estrada, when he was still chief of the Philippine National Police.

The anticipated highly political atmosphere has prompted PMA officials to remind everyone of the Commission on Elections' rules on the campaign.

Navy Lt. Bonifacio Agas, acting information officer of the PMA, said the display of political posters and streamers should conform to Comelec standards.

Agas also warned PMA alumni that their welcome streamers should not be nailed on pine trees. The Baguio Regreening Movement, a local group, has been campaigning against the nailing of political ads and other campaign materials on trees.

Honorary 'mistahs'

Sen. Gregorio Honasan, "baron" of Class '71, is now the chief security adviser of actor Fernando Poe Jr., standard-bearer of the opposition Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP).

Poe's running mate, Sen. Loren Legarda, is an honorary "mistah," having been adopted by Class '69. But Poe himself is not.

Neither is Raul Roco, standard-bearer of the Alyansa ng Pag-asa, who recently described K-4 senatorial candidate Rodolfo Biazon (Class '61) as a "factory defect" of the PMA.

Biazon, who is seeking reelection, is a consistent attendee of the homecoming. He will be recognized as one of this year's distinguished PMA alumni, along with Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza (Class '69).

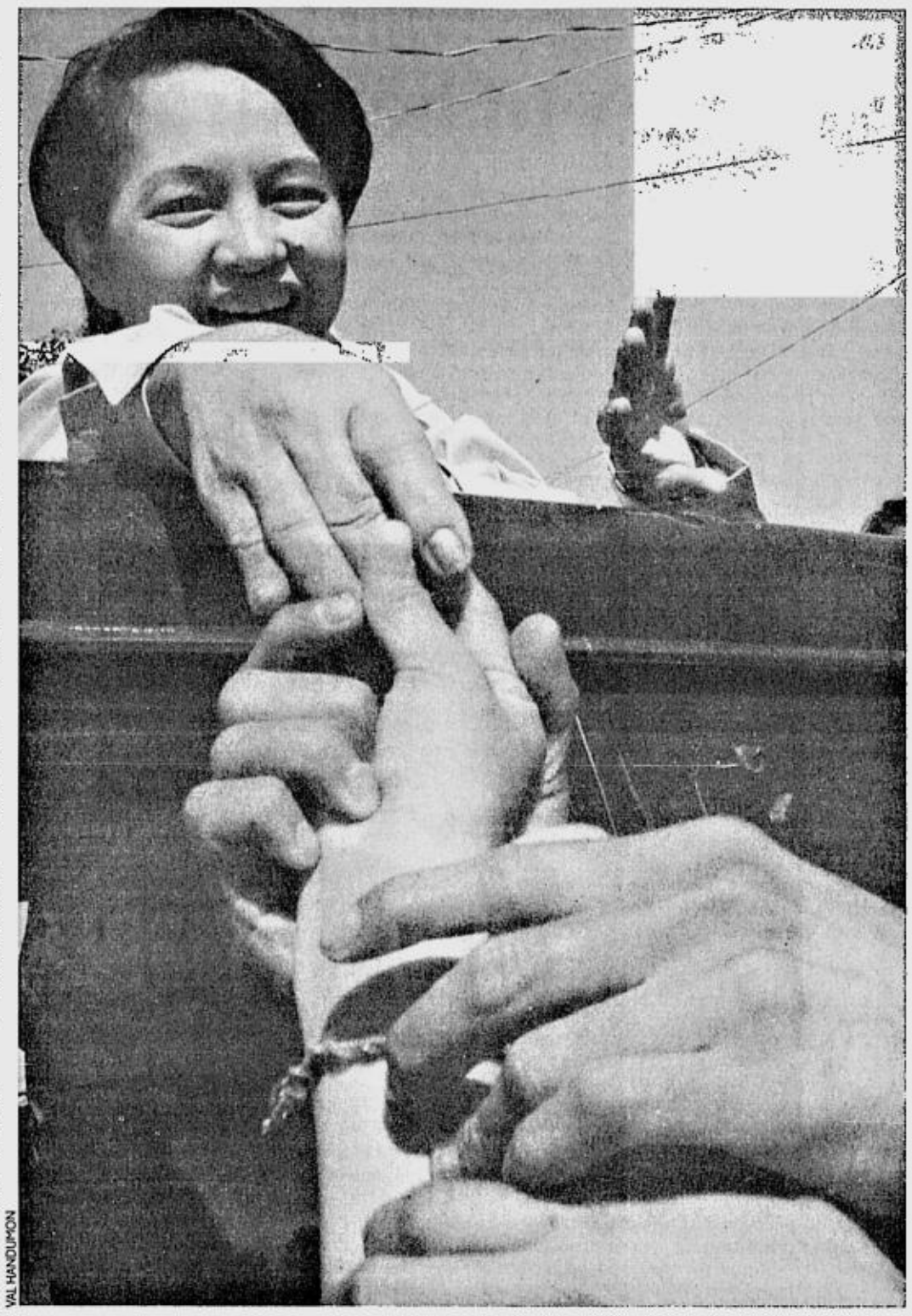
"No class has yet signified its intention to adopt them," Agas said in reference to Poe and Roco.

He said a nominee for honorary membership in a class will have to be endorsed by the class and his/her merits deliberated on by the PMA Alumni Association board. The PMAAA may also nominate a candidate for adoption.

Some K-4 senatorial candidates are honorary mistahs: Juan Ponce Enrile (Class '53), Miriam Defensor-Santiago (Class '69), Orlando Mercado (Class '70) and Manuel Roxas III (Class '84).

KNP senatorial candidate Jinggoy Estrada, a son of the ousted President's and a former mayor of San Juan, was adopted by Class '72.

It is the first time members of Class '95 will march at the homecoming without their more illustrious classmates, Navy Lt. SG Antonio Trillanes IV, Army Captains Gerardo Gambala and Milo Mastrecampo, and Marine Capt. Gary Lejano.



VAL HANDUMON

HANDS-ON campaigning for President Macapagal in Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro, the home province of her vice presidential bet, Noli de Castro.

Magdalo

The four are just some of the core leaders of the Magdalo group, which staged the July mutiny in protest of the alleged corruption in the Armed Forces.

Gambala is the valedictorian of the class, and Trillanes, among the top 10. Among them, Mastrecampo has been longest in combat duty and is also the most decorated.

But military insiders claim that there are deep divisions in Class '95. They say a majority of the class members disagreed with the decision of Trillanes and company to mount the mutiny at the Oakwood Premier apartment building in Makati.

GMA's class

The four, who are detained inside the tightly guarded compound of the Intelligence Service of the AFP, are facing rebellion charges before a Makati court.

Among the prominent members of Ms Macapagal's adopted class are Colonels Danilo Lim, Carlos Holganza and Delfin Bangit.

Lim, who graduated from West Point, joined Honasan's Reform the Armed Forces Movement that was a key player of Edsa I. He is now head of the elite Scout Ranger regiment.

Bangit is now the commander of the Presidential Security Group (PSG).

Holganza was with the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC) and was among those who sponsored Ms Macapagal's adoption by Class '78.

Also a member of the class is Senior Supt. Rodolfo "Boogie" Mendoza, police director of the President's home province of Pampanga.

Lt. Abat

Yet another member was Lt. Tito Abat, a son of former Defense Secretary Fortunato Abat's, who was killed in action in 1979.

The other day, Abat said military authorities abruptly canceled a ceremony last week to mark his son's death anniversary, at which he was to deliver a speech.

He said he was being gagged by the government.

Abat has called for the cancellation of the May 10 elections in favor of elections for a constitutional convention that would revise the Charter and change the form of government from presidential to parliamentary.

Marcos and Ramos

Other Philippine presidents adopted by the PMA were Ferdinand Marcos, who was nominated by the PMAAA, and Fidel Ramos by Class '51.

Ramos belonged to Class '51, but he finished military school at the US Military Academy at West Point in New York.

Among the incumbent senators adopted by PMA classes are Manuel Villar (Class '77), Ramon Magsaysay Jr. (PMAAA), Francisco Pangilinan (Class '85) and Robert Barbers (Class '75).

Former National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, a graduate of the US Naval Academy, was adopted by Class '70. Golez is seeking a seat in the House representing Parañaque City.

Actors Rudy Fernandez and Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez are honorary mistahs of Classes '72 and '84, respectively. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

Mike A to make rare appearance

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

JOSE MIGUEL Arroyo will make a rare appearance in the campaign in the course of a rendezvous with his wife tonight in Baguio City.

President Macapagal-Arroyo confirmed the date with her husband during a sortie yesterday at Pulong Bayan in Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro, hometown of her running mate, Noli de Castro.

Her campaign spokesperson Michael Defensor told the INQUIRER that the First Gentleman, together with the President's strategists, had decided on a limited role in the campaign leading up to the May elections.

Defensor did not elaborate but observers had said Arroyo was now a liability for his wife, having become a target of talk ranging from the "Jose Pidal" money-laundering charge to his alleged backroom maneuverings concerning Palace deals and appointments.

Asked by a Pinamalayan resident on her plans for Valentine's Day, the President gamely said she had asked her husband to be with her in Baguio where, she fondly recalled, they first met as teenagers.

She will take the K-4 caravan to Baguio today, where she will be guest of honor at the annual homecoming of the Philippine Military Academy.

Ms Macapagal has been telling her audiences that since she first decided to run for public office, her husband and children have taken a back seat to God and country in her list of priorities.

In Pinamalayan, De Castro rallied his *kababayan* to support Ms Macapagal and her K-4 team.

"Mindoro is 100 percent for the President," he said.

Battered wife, spared from death penalty, is now free

From page A1

go swimming," another younger brother of Marivic's, who was left in Ormoc to tend to their house and *sari-sari* store, told the INQUIRER.

"They called us [Thursday] morning, but they did not tell us when they will come home," he said. But he added that Marivic and the others could probably be expected home this weekend because her young daughter would have to attend classes on Monday.

The child has been in the care of Marivic's family here since her incarceration in 1997.

Last month, the Supreme Court en banc affirmed Marivic's conviction of parricide but commuted her death sentence to 6-14 years imprisonment after it found mitigating circumstances, including her being afflicted with "battered wife syndrome."

In footage shown over GMA-7's "Unang Hirit" yesterday, Marivic said in Filipino:

"I am happy that I will finally be home. I can now see my children."

3 kids

Marivic's two other children—both boys aged 14 and 16—are staying with her in-laws in Isabel, a town about 40 kilometers northwest of Ormoc.

The three children had visited their mother in prison once a year for the past four years, the INQUIRER learned.

Last December, the eldest boy traveled to his grandmother's house in Ormoc to attend a party for his sister's eighth birthday. The other boy was unable to come.

"They [the two boys] will come here once their mother arrives here," Marivic's brother said.

He said the family was planning a reunion that would be highlighted by a thanksgiving Mass to be attended by family members who had given Marivic support during her imprisonment.

While he slept

Marivic killed her husband Ben as he slept in their bedroom on Nov. 15, 1995. She was then eight months pregnant.

She fled together with her two sons the following day.

Marivic surrendered to authorities in 1997. Already facing a parricide case then, she was jailed without bail.

She was convicted and meted the death penalty by the Ormoc Regional Trial Court in September 1998.

Last month, after a review of Marivic's case, the Supreme Court issued its landmark decision.

The high court also ordered that Marivic be released on parole because she had served the minimum six years imprisonment.

Legal breakthrough

Marivic's lawyer, Dulce Asensi, described the tribunal's decision as a "legal breakthrough."

She said the courts had finally opened their eyes to the "battered woman syndrome."

Asensi said Marivic had been physically and verbally abused by her husband to whom she was married for 12 years.

She added that Marivic was beaten at least 23 times by her husband, even when she was pregnant.

The Supreme Court defined a battered woman as one "who is repeatedly subjected to any forceful physical or psychological behavior by a man in order to coerce her to do something he wants her to do without concern for her rights." *With a report from INQ7.net*

Drilon urges new Comelec commissioner to quit

From page A1

ers' lists.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos said Garcillano was able to "contribute" to the discussions as he was an old hand at the agency.

Assignments

Garcillano has been assigned to oversee the elections in the Zamboanga peninsula, Northern Mindanao and Socsargen (Regions 9, 10 and 12) while Barcelona will get Davao (Region 11) and Caraga.

Garcillano was also named Comelec operations chief, while Barcelona was assigned to head the finance committee.

Justifying the assignments, Abalos said the commissioners were being assigned to contiguous areas to save on expenses.

The Comelec chief appealed for an end to the criticism and to let the two new commissioners "work in peace."

Abalos said yesterday's discussions centered on the problem brought about by double and multiple registrations and what the poll body could do about delisting the people involved.

The Comelec yesterday also formalized the list of presidential and vice presidential candidates, issuing the certified list of candidates for the two positions.

Abalos said that there were no changes in the original six presidential and four vice presidential candidates. The Comelec still has to come out with the certified list of senatorial candidates.

'Questionable integrity'

In a phone interview, Pimentel said he agreed with Drilon's call for Garcillano's resignation.

"If he doesn't want to, then he should sit out this election pending clarification of issues raised against him at the [Commission on Appointments]," Pimentel said.

He said the Comelec should be protected from people "with questionable integrity" because this might "create adverse repercussions on the Comelec itself."

GMA not informed

Drilon said the President "may have not been fully informed of [Garcillano's] background."

He said he did not know who recommended him although he had received information that it may have been "politicians in the South."

Unfortunately, Ms Macapagal can no longer withdraw Garcillano's appointment as his position becomes permanent upon his assumption of office, he said. Garcillano took his oath of office the other day.

But Drilon said Garcillano can be removed if the Commission on Appointments rejects his appointment.

Tough time

Drilon, who chairs the CA, said Garcillano could face a "tough time" in the congressional appointments body.

The opposition has claimed that the President violated the Constitution in appointing Garcillano and Barcelona, noting that the Constitution prohibits the appointment of Comelec officials on a temporary or acting capacity.

Opposition leaders consider the appointment of the two as temporary since they were designated after Congress had adjourned.

But Drilon defended the President, saying the Constitution allows the Chief Executive to "appoint during the recess of Congress, whether voluntarily or compulsory, but such appointments shall be effective only until disapproval by the CA or until the next adjournment of Congress."

Benefit of the doubt

The National Movement for Free Elections, the election watchdog body, said it would give Garcillano and Barcelona the benefit of the doubt as it did not know enough about the two to take a stand.

"We shall see how they perform. The Comelec will have to prove that whomever they place as officials can work for credible and honest elections," said Namfrel national chair Jose Concepcion Jr., adding that Namfrel would keep an eye on the two controversial officials as well as the other Comelec commissioners.

He said the appointment of the two new commissioners might help the Comelec "straighten things out."

Namfrel executive director Guillermo Luz said Namfrel did not have enough information to take a position on the controversial appointments.

Investigation?

"We don't know much about Garcillano except that he's from the Comelec ... We're trying to get more information about them, even specifics from the Pimentel case," Luz said.

A Namfrel member who spoke on condition of anonymity suggested that the Senate settle its apprehension by conducting a formal investigation.

"The committee can convene and review the qualifications of the appointees. They can check and establish [the veracity of the reports] before asking the appointing power to reconsider," the Namfrel volunteer said. *With a report from Michelle Remo*

FOUR DIGIT
2 8 1 5
(In exact order)
SUERTRES
6 2 5

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METRO

Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

MEGALOTTO 6/45
4 10 13 30 37 40

Slay suspect is first Pinay to be extradited to US

By Leila Salaverria

THE FIRST Filipino woman to be extradited to the United States was scheduled to leave the country at 11 p.m. last night, six years to the day when she was first arrested in the Philippines for a double murder charge in the posh US enclave of Beverly Hills.

Asuncion "Tootsie" Espina, 46, was set to leave on board a Continental Airlines flight to Los Angeles, California. US Deputy Marshalls Tania Archer and Cecilo Jacot would accompany Asuncion on the flight to the US mainland after her release from the custody of the National Bureau of Investigation.

Reporters tried to interview Espina yesterday, but she declined to give a statement.

According to Jun de Castro, NBI Interpol executive officer, Espina had been detained at the NBI since Feb. 13, 1998 while awaiting the decision on her extradition case, which she fought at every level—all the way to the Supreme Court.

Last year, however, the high tribunal upheld the 1999 ruling of Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Manuel Barrios, paving the way for Espina's extradition to the US.

The Philippines was also able to obtain an assurance from the US government that Espina would not be sentenced to death should she be convicted of the charges filed against her.

Her departure from the country was finalized this week with the issuance of her travel documents by the Department of Justice and the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Espina is wanted in the United States for shooting to death Julius Zimmelman and his son Irwin in Beverly Hills, allegedly during a fight over a business deal.

After the killing, she allegedly went back to the Philippines.

The last Filipino extradited to the United States was former Quezon Gov. Eduardo Rodriguez, who surrendered to the NBI in May last year.

He was accused of faking the deaths of his wife Imelda and her mother Gloria in order to collect $150,000 in insurance money.

METROBRIEFS

Vigilantes strike anew

VIGILANTES in Manila apparently have claimed another victim. An unidentified man on Thursday was fished out of the Pasig River with a knife still stuck in his head. P03 Dennis Javier said the man's mouth was covered with packaging tape while his hands were tied behind the back with nylon cord and shoelace. The body was discovered floating in the river near Manila's Pandacan oil depot at around 2 p.m. The man, said to be around 28 years old and stood at about 5-foot-3, had a heart-shaped tattoo on his chest. *Leila Salaverria*

Another rap

A SUSPECT in the abduction of American executive Alastair Joseph Onglingswan recently told the police that she and her husband had kidnapped and killed insurance man Jasper Beltran, 30, last September, said Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales, Cavite police director. Susan Sumugba, wife of George "Petrus" Yao, yesterday led lawmen to Bacoor, where she and her husband supposedly buried Beltran. The lawmen found nothing. Rosales said that they have been trying to verify Sumugba's story with Yao, but the man had been silent since the couple's arrest last Wednesday.

Christian Esguerra, with Froilan Legaspi

2 maul and make up

VALENTINE'S Day ought to be the time for people to kiss and make up—or, in the case of Terry Ortez and Juanito Bangkat, to shoot, maul, and make up. On Thursday night, Ortez used a .38-caliber pistol to shoot his drinking buddy, Bangkat, 30, on Eusebio Ave. in Barangay Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City. Slightly wounded, Bangkat beat up Ortes. "When we asked Bangkat who shot him, he would not identify Ortez," said P01 John Ocleda. The police, however, had no doubt as to who shot who, and who beat who. In the end, the two men decided not to pursue charges against each other yesterday, Ocleda said. *Luige del Puerto*

Steer clear of 'roads to heaven,' motorists warned

By Edson Tandoc Jr., Luige del Puerto and Margaux Ortiz

POSTERS urging people to "celebrate love" have long been hung over street corners. Special Valentines' menus have been prepared. And overnight stays have been suspended to accommodate as many three-hour customers as possible.

But as of yesterday, the management of the biggest hotel in Caloocan City was wondering why customers were not yet pouring in for Valentines' Day.

Edgar Omeping, supervisor of Victoria's Court Caloocan City, said that in past years, the influx of customers for the Valentine's season began as early as Feb. 10. Previously, they had as many as 180 couples checking in daily from Feb. 10 to 15.

But yesterday, Omeping said the days before V-day were like ordinary days.

"Perhaps this is because of the economic situation," Omeping added.

The motel's discounted room costs P195 for three hours while the regular rates begin at P700.

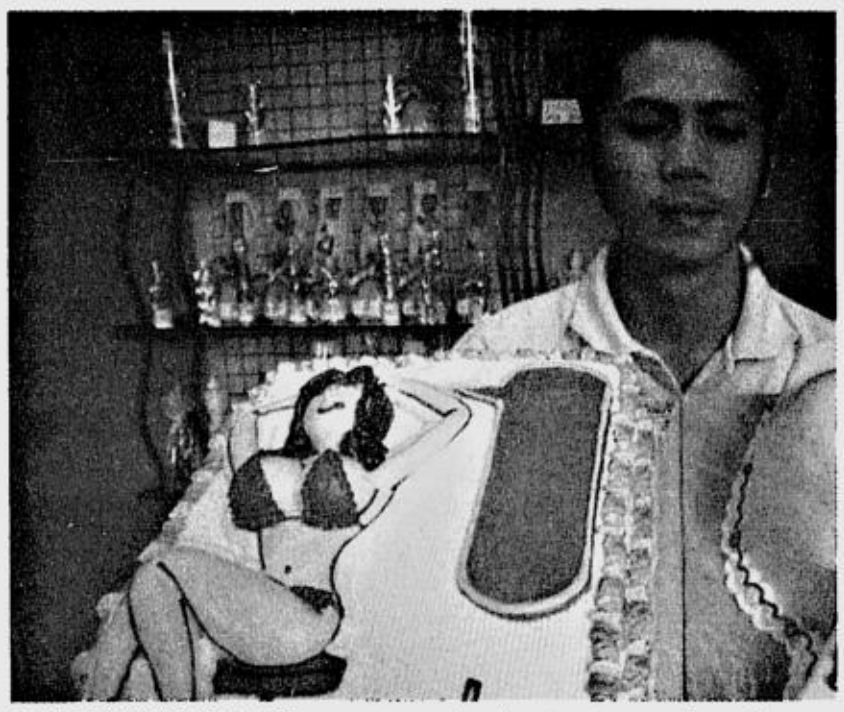
Desk officers of the 10 motels in Caloocan were optimistic, however, that customers would be showing up today.

In Pasig City, Nolet Otayza, manager of Victoria's Court-Panorama in Barangay Oranbo, said patrons started arriving after lunch and began filling up 50 percent of their rooms.

"We expect people to start pouring in after dinner. This will usually last until Feb. 15," he said.

Based on their performance in January, Otayza said they were expecting more customers in the next few days compared to last year.

Room rates in motels usually range from P200 to P2,000.



A SHOPKEEPER in Makati City presents novelty cakes to customers who prefer a more creative—if not naughty—way of celebrating Valentine's Day. ROMEO RANOCO/REUTERS

Meanwhile, the police advised motorists to avoid concert areas, malls and restaurants if they had no business in these places.

"Expect heavy traffic today, specially in malls and restaurants," said Sr. Supt. Ericson Velasquez, Mandaluyong Police chief.

Brian McKnight and Boyz II Men were scheduled to serenade lovers at the Philsports Arena (formerly Ultra) Friday night.

Tonight, the popular foreign group Abba will also hold a concert at the Philsports Arena.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando said his men would be there to direct traffic.

"We are expecting congestion in areas around malls, restaurants and motels," Fernando said in a phone interview.

MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said "We are reminding everyone to enjoy this special day, but to try not to impede traffic flow."

Napolcom offers VD gift to women

By Margaux Ortiz

AS A "Valentine's Day (VD) gift to women," the National Police Commission has given top priority to the case of nine Quezon City policemen who were sacked last week for turning their station into a strip joint.

Napolcom spokesperson Bernardo Calibo said the commission's investigators are working on the case and will be coming up with results next week.

"The policemen destroyed the sanctity of the police station," Calibo said. "It's about time they learn to respect women."

Calibo said the Napolcom regularly gives gender-sensitivity seminars for law enforcers to teach them to respect the nature of women and give them equal opportunities in professional advancement.

Calibo added that the policemen are also apprised of the Anti-sexual Harassment Law during the seminars.

He noted that the Anti-sexual Harassment Law was authored by Napolcom Chair Jose Lina Jr. when he was still a senator.

Calibo also said the erring policemen violated the law because the woman they hired during the wild birthday party inside the station was a probable victim of white slavery.

"Most of these women work under duress—they are being forced to do it (sell their bodies)," Calibo said.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila

IN THE MATTER OF

REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

x----------x

ORDER

WHEREAS, all corporations are required to submit annual reports such as the General Information Sheet and Financial Statements pursuant to Sec. 141 of the Corporation Code of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the records of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) show that there are many corporations who failed to submit the abovementioned reports for the last six (6) consecutive years, i.e. for period 1998-2003.

WHEREFORE, NOTICE is hereby given that those **corporations registered from 1996 to 1997** who failed to submit the said reports are directed to appear within thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this Order before the Law and Regulation Division, Company Registration and Monitoring Department of this Commission at the 3rd Floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Mandaluyong City during office hours **and show cause why their Certificates of Incorporation should not be revoked.**

After the lapse of the said thirty (30) day period and the said delinquent corporations have not updated their files, as well as, settled the corresponding fine or penalty, their **Certificate of Incorporation shall be deemed revoked.**

Let this Order be published once in a newspaper of general circulation.

SO ORDERED.

Mandaluyong City, February 10, 2004.

(Sgd.) **BENITO A. CATARAN**
Director
Company Registration and Monitoring Department

(PDI–February 14, 2004)

64 stricken off voters' list

SIXTY-FOUR registered voters would not be able to participate in the coming elections after two Manila Regional Trial Court judges ordered their names to be stricken off the list of voters in the third district of Manila.

Manila City Legal Officer Melchor Monsod said that the 64 people failed to establish that they are residents of the city. He suspected that the excluded voters are fictitious and may be up to no good in the May 10 polls.

"Such practice of registering fictitious persons or non-residents makes a mockery of the electoral process and is tantamount to cheating," Monsod said in a statement yesterday.

The orders for the exclusion were issued on Jan. 30 by RTC Branch 26 Judge Emmanuel Lorredo and RTC Branch 28 Judge Ruben Reynaldo Roxas.

According to Monsod, Rosita Nieto and Irene Calangian filed the petition for excluding the non-voters after they discovered that the 64 people in Manila's third district either listed down fictitious addresses, or the addresses of other voters.

Monsod said that he believes a single person could be behind the registration of the excluded voters, pointing out that those who were hauled to court were all represented by the same lawyer, Atty. Jose Ventura Aspiras. *Leila Salaverria*

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)** invites all interested Bidders to apply for eligibility/bid for the bidding of Internet Service and Frame Relay Service:

	Approved Budget
Lot 1: Internet Service	P 500,000.00
Lot 2: Frame Relay Service	P 4,000,000.00

The schedule of activities is as follows:

February 16-23, 2004	Issuance of Eligibility Requirements
February 16-24, 2004 (up to 6:00 p.m.)	Submission of Eligibility Documents
February 16-26, 2004 (up to 6:00 p.m.)	Issuance of Bid Documents
March 2, 2004 (10:00 a.m.)	Pre-bidding Conference
March 15, 2004 (9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.) (10:00 a.m.)	Submission of Bids Opening of Bids

List of eligibility requirements and forms can be secured from and submitted to BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Administrator for Finance and Administration (ODAFA), 7th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City upon presentation of a letter of intent specifying the lot or lots a bidder wants to make an offer. Bidding documents may likewise be secured from BAC Secretariat and the same shall be issued to duly registered/eligible bidders upon payment of Php 2,000.00, non-refundable fee. For inquiries, please contact the BAC Secretariat at Telephone No. **712-3341** local 8702 (Remy) or local 8925 (Roger).

Any eligible bidder can bid for one, a combination or all of the lots.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY ON THE BIDS RECEIVED, PROVIDED THAT SUCH WAIVER DOES NOT REFER TO A MAJOR DEVIATION IN A BID AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator & Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Feb. 14 & 21, 2004)

SC allows Taguig to hold recount

THE SUPREME Court has allowed the Commission on Elections to conduct a recount of the ballots cast in the April 1998 plebiscite where the residents reportedly rejected the cityhood of Taguig.

Freddie Tiñga, Taguig mayor, said that with the recount, they would come to know if the people really rejected the choice of cityhood.

Tiñga said that he is pushing for cityhood because Taguig has grown in size, population and income.

He said Taguig should be a city and needs a city's Internal Revenue Allotment.

A municipality receives less IRA allotment than a city.

Tiñga said that had Taguig been a city, it would have received an additional IRA allotment amounting to about P300 million.

"We need it (additional IRA) for the implementation of new projects and the delivery of basic services," Tiñga said.

According to Tiñga, Rep. Allan Cayetano was against Taguig's cityhood in 1998. But the congressman has since changed his mind.

Tiñga said he was happy with the result of the high court decision. *Joyce Abaño*

CANDY COATED ENFORCEMENT
Two police officers give heart-shaped candy and a Valentine card to a worker in Pasig City. The numbers of Metro Manila police stations are printed on the back of the card. JOAN BONDOC

Robbers leave blood trail in Metro

By Luige del Puerto and Edson Tandoc Jr.

A DAY after robbers carted away P2.6 million in Quezon City, suspects again struck killing a couple, wounding another and fleeing with more than P1 million.

Yesterday, the proximity of a police station did not stop three men from taking P100,000 from the Premier Bank branch on Sumulong Highway in Barangay Mayamot, Antipolo City.

The bank was only a few blocks away from the police station.

The suspects fled on a red Toyota Corolla (TST-868) towards Parang, Marikina.

On Thursday night, three other men brutally killed an elderly couple in Rodriguez (formerly Montalban), Rizal.

Romeo Quesea, 75, and his wife, Pastora, 73, were found with three stab wounds each in the back of their home in Eastwood Greenview Subdivision in Barangay San Rafael. .

The suspects reportedly took the earnings of the couple's sari-sari store.

At about 3:30 p.m. the other day, two suspects drove off with P469,000 after shooting Felino Ibay and his wife Thess in Caloocan City.

The spate of robberies happened after five men took on Thursday P2.6 million, which was first reported to be payroll money for Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) employees.

The LRTA clarified yesterday that the money actually belonged to one of their contractors the Metro Manila Light Rail Transit Consultants.

LRTA officer in charge Atty. Zosimo Mendoza Jr. said the payroll of LRTA employees was safe.

Student shot dead

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

A 16-YEAR-OLD high school student was practically still on campus when a gunman pumped a bullet through his head in Navotas yesterday morning.

Ryan Lee Mauleon, 16, had just stepped out of Kaunlaran High School on Bangus Street with his girlfriend and classmates when the suspect struck at 10:45 a.m.

The students were walking home from Citizens' Army Training when a man wearing sunglasses, a bull cap and a towel over his head wrapped an arm around Mauleon's neck and shot him at point blank.

The bullet from a 9-mm pistol entered the back of the student's head and exited his temple.

Mauleon was brought to the Tondo Medical Center where he was declared dead on arrival.

The killer walked away before fleeing on a pedicab toward the Sawata Area of Caloocan City.

The students described the killer as between 22-27 years old, wearing a white shirt and short pants.

WPD chief stands by men

By Leila Salaverria

IT WAS a shootout not a rubout.

Western Police District director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong asserted this after a Commission on Human Rights forensic expert said that the six men killed along the Osmeña Highway in December bore torture marks.

"It was a legitimate encounter," Bulaong told the INQUIRER yesterday. "Maybe if the six were just found sprawled on the road, then the incident could have been considered a rubout, but they shot it out with my men."

Dr. Jessie Rey Cruel, CHR forensic and medical division manager, said the six bore contusions, abrasions and cuts that could not have been sustained in the gun battle.

But Bulaong said the suspects could have gotten the bruises when they attempted to run away from the police during the shootout, and even inside the vehicles they were in since these were running at high speed during the incident.

The WPD chief also said that the police have witnesses who could say that a shootout took place.

CHR wakes up

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

FORENSIC experts of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) claim six alleged kidnap and robbery suspects slain in an alleged shootout in Manila in December were tortured and then executed.

It's nice to hear the CHR is again active in protecting the citizenry from overzealous or abusive law enforcers. It has been in hibernation for so many years.

Let's all welcome the CHR that has recently emerged from Dreamland.

* * *

Kidding aside, we can't blame the CHR for hibernating. The government is not providing the agency enough funds to do its job.

CHR doesn't have enough money for its investigators in the field.

And it doesn't have the power to suspend cops or military men found abusing their powers. All the CHR can do is recommend the prosecution of abusive men and women in uniform.

* * *

Now, about those six slain kidnap and robbery suspects who bore signs of torture.

Nothing will come out of the CHR findings. Who will the CHR charge in court for the rubout of the six alleged criminals?

And if CHR does its job and charges the cops who took part in the "shootout" between them and the six slain suspects, what of it?

The courts can't even resolve the Kuratong Baleleng rubout case where 11 alleged bank robbery suspects were killed by the police in a gangland-style rubout.

* * *

On page A22 of the INQUIRER in yesterday's issue, there was this photo of Manila police SWAT team accosting a man on Pedro Gil Street, Manila. In the background is a woman (her eyes blackened out so she could not be identified) looking like she was pleading for the man.

The Manila police SWAT team had received a report that the woman was abducted. It turned out the man was her lover.

But why was the Manila police SWAT team on the scene, intervening in what was later turned out to be a lovers' quarrel, when that could have been handled by policemen in patrol cars or cops on the beat?

SWAT stands for Special Weapons and Tactics. SWAT cops are used for crimes that can't be handled by ordinary cops on the beat. One of them is hostage-taking.

The Western Police District (WPD), the new name for the old Manila Police Department, should be sparing in the use of its SWAT team. Otherwise, the team might just as well handle arresting sidewalk vendors and jaywalkers.

* * *

Guards at the National Bilibid Prisons (NBP) hauled back to prison death convict Lenido Lumanog Wednesday night from the National Kidney and Transplant Institute where he underwent a kidney transplant.

While NBP custodial police were taking hold of Lumanog, his lawyer, Soliman Santos Jr., was protesting. He tried to have influential people intervene in behalf of his client.

One of the influential guys Lumanog and Santos called was First Gentleman Mike Arroyo who was having dinner at the Thai restaurant of Dusit Hotel.

Arroyo received the call past 10 p.m. on his cellular phone. Arroyo first talked with Lumanog and then Santos.

The First Gentleman told them he was not going to talk with the prison guards as Lumanog wanted him to do.

"Hindi po puwede yan dahil ginagawa lang po nila ang kanilang tungkulin (I can't do that because they're just doing their job)," said Arroyo to the request that he talk to the guards who were bringing Lumanog back to prison.

"At saka hindi naman ako opisyal ng gobyerno, wala naman akong katungkulan, Panyero (Besides, I am not a public official, I don't have powers, Compañero)," he told Lumanog's lawyer.

I was with the First Gentleman when he was having that conversation.

He told me later that he underwrote Lumanog's hospital and medical bills, that's why they knew where to reach him.

Who says Mike Arroyo interferes in his wife's affairs?

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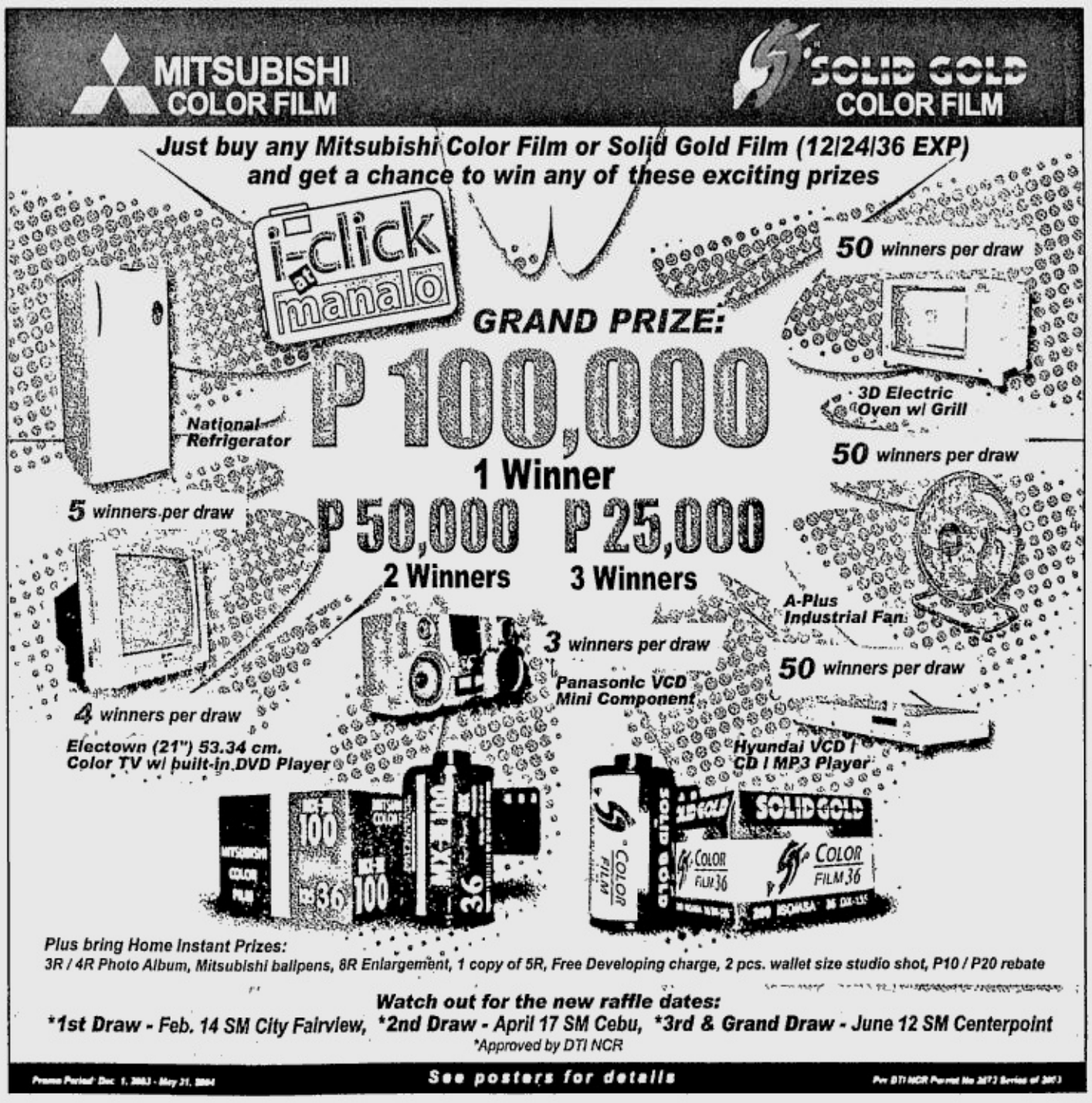

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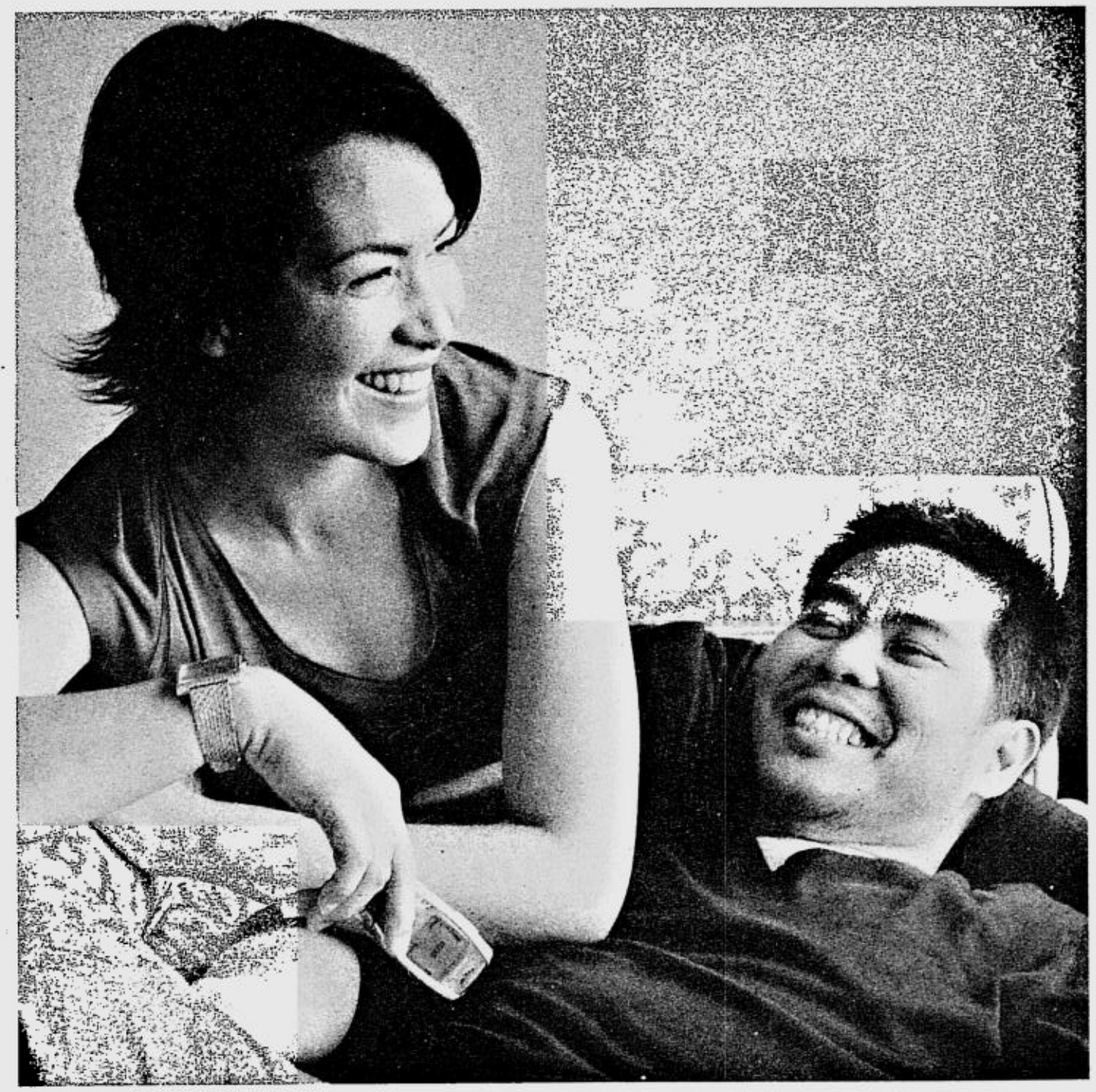

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SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 14, 2004

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SPORTS

A25

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

BAP hit hard for snubbing pro league /A27

LONG jump ace Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito to remain an RP star PDI PHOTO

Nat'l pool to be cut by half

PSC funds only for 'Golden 500'

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE NATIONAL pool of 1,000 athletes will become the "Golden 500" next month.

Despite threats of mass action by the national sports associations, the Philippine Sports Commission yesterday finally announced its decision to cut down by half the number of athletes under its payroll and use the P70-million savings to build a formidable national team for 2005..

"We will make the national pool a very prestigious group to belong to," said PSC chair Eric Buhain during a meeting with representatives of the national athletes at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Buhain said the NSAs will be given a free hand in deciding the athletes who will remain in the pool.

The survivors to be known as the "Golden 500" will then be lavishly prepared and trained to serve as spearhead of the country's campaign for overall honors during the Southeast Asian Games in Metro Manila next year.

From this elite roster will also come the handful of athletes who will represent the country in the Athens Olympics this August.

The NSAs had earlier railed against reducing the national pool while blasting Buhain for the PSC's failure to reimburse them for expenses incurred as late as the 2002 Asian Games and other projects long approved by the agency.

Despite a petition for his ouster supported by no less than Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit, Buhain succeeded in meeting early in the week the disgruntled NSA heads, who agreed to give him up to March 15 to settle the PSC obligations.

Cutting the national pool by half actually gives the PSC some funding room.

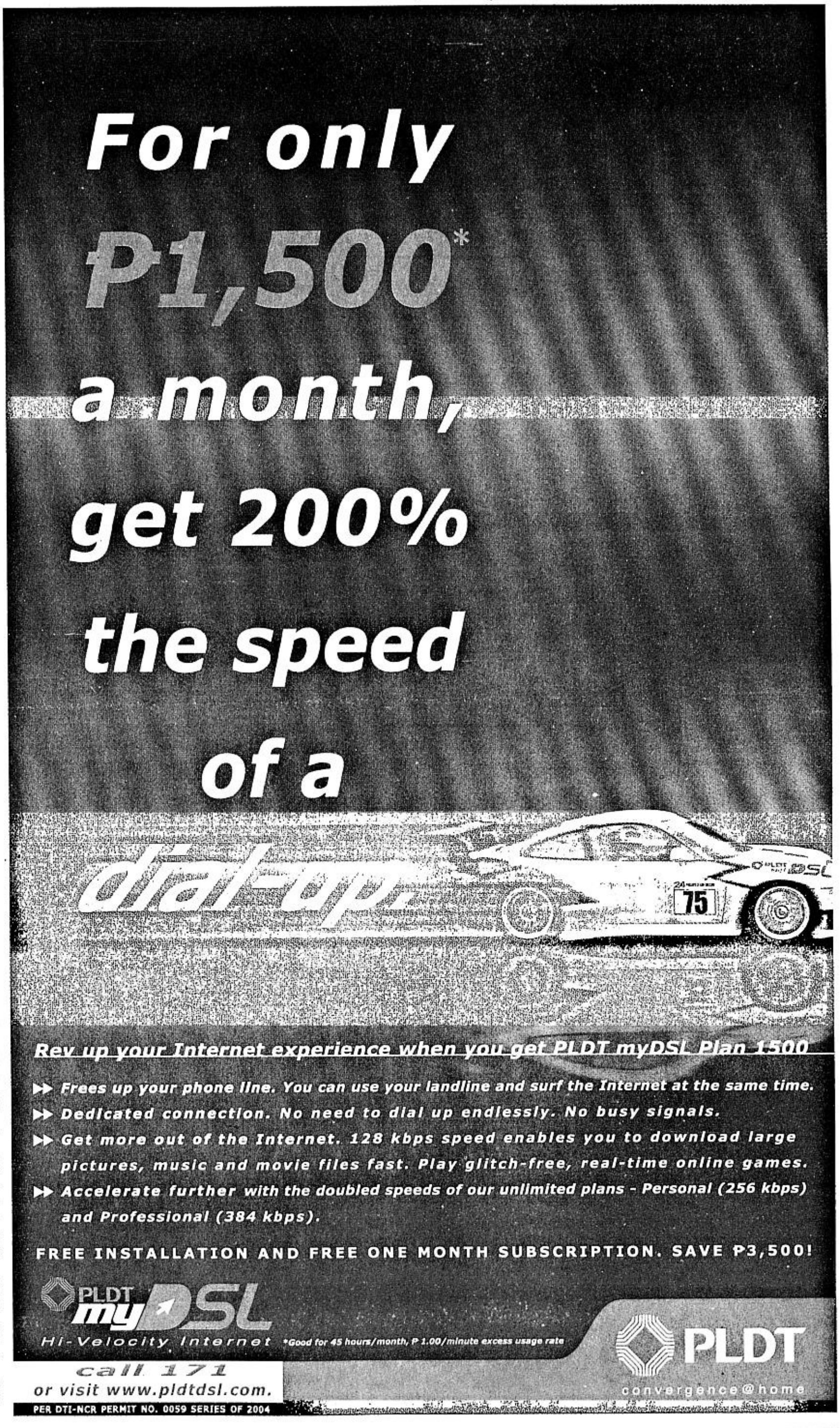
Last year alone, the PSC spent P100 million for the allowances of athletes on top of P35 million for meal expenses at P150 a day. Class A athletes get a P10,000 allowance, Class B P8,000, Class C P6,000 and Class D or developmental pool members P4,000 a month in salaries.

Under the new scheme, the Class C and D athletes are automatically removed from the pool except those in the team events.

With the athletes now carefully chosen, Buhain said the pool will now boast of talents "more deserving" of international exposure and training.

After the national pool, the PSC also plans to reduce the number of its employees, particularly the contractual workers who now reportedly number 400.

The PSC supports the national sports associations and their athletes from Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp. funds.



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4	MONA LISA SMILE
5	MILAN
6	WISHING STAIRS
7	CHASING LIBERTY
8	LAST SAMURAI

SM CITY CEBU 2313876

1	LAST SAMURAI
2	STUCK ON YOU
3	BROTHER BEAR
4	MONA LISA SMILE
5	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
6	MILAN
7	MILAN
8	TWINS EFFECT

SM CITY BACOOR 4173868

1	A GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE
2	HAUNTED MANSION
3	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4	MILAN
5	CHASING LIBERTY
6	MILAN
7	MAGIC KITCHEN
8	WISHING STAIRS

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO (088) 8592884

1	WRONG TURN
2	MILAN
3	BROTHER BEAR
4	LAST SAMURAI

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT 8294975

1	CHASING LIBERTY
2	HAUNTED MANSION
3	MILAN
4	MILAN

SM BICUTAN 7763055

1	CHASING LIBERTY
2	HAUNTED MANSION
3	MILAN
4	MILAN

SM CITY BAGUIO (074) 4464505

1	MONA LISA SMILE
2	THE GRUDGE
3	MILAN
4	STUCK ON YOU

SM STA. MESA 7149522 • 7161416

1	MILAN
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3	CHASING LIBERTY
4	WISHING STAIRS
5	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
6	MONA LISA SMILE
7	HAUNTED MANSION
8	SHIRI
9	MILAN
10	A GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE

SM SOUTHMALL 8066866

1	MAGIC KITCHEN
2	HAUNTED MANSION
3	CHASING LIBERTY
4	MILAN
5	SHIRI
6	LAST SAMURAI
7	WISHING STAIRS
8	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
9	MILAN
10	A GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	SHIRI
2	A GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE
3	IN THE CUT
4	LAST SAMURAI
5	WISHING STAIRS
6	MILAN
7	CHASING LIBERTY
8	HAUNTED MANSION
9	MILAN
10	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
11	I AM DINA
12	BROTHER BEAR

SM CITY MARILAO

1	MILAN
2	MILAN
3	STUCK ON YOU
4	HAUNTED MANSION

SM CITY ILOILO 3209422

1	MEMENTO MORI
2	RESERVED
3	MILAN
4	BROTHER BEAR
5	STUCK ON YOU
6	LAST SAMURAI
7	RESERVED
8	HAUNTED OFFICE

SM MEGAMALL 6331901

1	I AM DINA (RESERVE-A-SEAT dial 6306803)
2	MONA LISA SMILE
3	MAGIC KITCHEN
4	LAST SAMURAI
5	HAUNTED MANSION
6	PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN
7	SHIRI
8	WISHING STAIRS
9	MILAN
10	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
11	MILAN
12	MAGIC KITCHEN

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN 2514302

1	HAUNTED MANSION
2	CHASING LIBERTY
3	MILAN
4	MILAN

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	CHASING LIBERTY
2	MONA LISA SMILE
3	I AM DINA
4	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
5	HAUNTED MANSION
6	LAST SAMURAI
7	A GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE
8	SHIRI
9	MILAN
10	WISHING STAIRS
11	MAGIC KITCHEN
12	MILAN

SM CITY DAVAO 2976998

1	MILAN
2	MILAN
3	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4	TWINS EFFECT
5	MONA LISA SMILE
6	STUCK ON YOU

SM CITY PAMPANGA 7128015

1	HAUNTED MANSION
2	STUCK ON YOU
3	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4	BROTHER BEAR
5	MILAN
6	MILAN

SM CITY LUCENA (042) 7108977-80

1	BROTHER BEAR
2	MILAN
3	MILAN
4	LAST SAMURAI

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1	HAUNTED MANSION 10:10 FS/10:30 MF/12:25 / 2:20 / 4:15 / 6:10 / 8:05 / 9:35 LFS/10:00 LMF/11:30 END
2	CHASING LIBERTY 10:10 FS/110:35 MF/12:50 / 3:05 / 5:20 / 7:35 / 9:35 LFS/9:55 LMF/11:55 END

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12:30pm | Short Gay Works
3:00pm | Poetic Shorts
6:30pm | Green Lights by Robert H. Lieberman
9:00pm | Cold Mountain by Anthony Minghella

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2 CHASING LIBERTY	2 WISHING STAIRS		THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 MILAN 12:30 3:10 5:50 8:30 11:15	2 MILAN
3 MILAN	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 CHASING LIBERTY 4 MONA LISA SMILE 5 MAGIC KITCHEN 6 MILAN 7 MILAN	2 MILAN 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:25	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 THE LAST SAMURAI 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:30	3 CHASING LIBERTY
4 HAUNTED MANSION		REPERTORY'S FAME Feb. 14 15 20 21, 22, 27, 28 29, Mar. 6 & 7	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 MILAN 12:20, 4:00 6:40 9:20 12:00	4 HAUNTED MANSION
			GUARANTEED SEATS 5 HAUNTED MANSION	5 MONAL LISA SMILE

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2	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3	CHASING LIBERTY
4	LAST SAMURAI
5	MONA LIZA SMILE
6	HAUNTED MANSION
7	MILAN
8	MAGIC KITCHEN
9	BROTHER BEAR
10	WISHING STAIRS

Eastwood Cinemas (Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1	MILAN
2	CHASING LIBERTY
3	HAUNTED MANSION
4	MONALISA SMILE

Masagana Cinema (Pasay) tel 833.3290 833.3274

1	MILAN
2	HAUNTED MANSION
3	MAGIC KITCHEN

Starmall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	MILAN
2	MAGIC KITCHEN
3	CHASING LIBERTY
4	HAUNTED MANSION
5	WISHING STAIRS

(DOLBY DIGITAL EX)

Metropolis Star www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	WISHING STAIRS
2	GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE
3	IN THE CUT
4	MILAN
5	HAUNTED MANSION
6	CHASING LIBERTY

Star www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1	MILAN
2	HAUNTED MANSION

Premiere Cinema (Makati City) tel 892.2503 — UltraScreen THX — CHASING LIBERTY

Centre Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	LAST SAMURAI
2	KILL BILL

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	MILAN
2	HAUNTED MANSION
3	MOUNSTER SHARK
4	

Gotesco Cinema

Gotesco City (Manila) tel 734.8588

5	
6	RESERVE
7	(DTS)
8	(SDDS)
9	(DOLBY)

Gotesco Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	WISHING STAIRS
2	MILAN
3	MILAN
4	IN THE CUT
5	MAGIC KITCHEN
6	HAUNTED MANSION
7	CHASING LIBERTY
8	DIABLO
9	GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE

Gotesco Commonwealth tel 951.0083

1	RESERVE
2	(SDDS)
3	(DTS)
4	(DOLBY)
5	

Gotesco Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	WISHING STAIRS
2	MILAN
3	CHASING LIBERTY
4	LIBERATED
5	HAUNTED MANSION

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	RESERVE

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords

Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	MILAN
2	HAUNTED MANSION
3	CHASING LIBERTY
4	RESERVE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	HAUNTED MANSION
2	CHASING LIBERTY
3	MAGIC KITCHEN
4	MILAN
5	WISHING STAIRS

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	MILAN
2	DIABLO

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MALL CINEPLEX 7 Tel No. 911-3191 Loc. 821-8342-8400

1	MILAN
2	WISHING STAIRS
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HAUNTED MANSION
4 (DTS)	CHASING LIBERTY
5 (DTS)	LAST SAMURAI
6	MAGIC KITCHEN
7	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	HAUNTED MANSION
2	MILAN
3 (DTS EX)	STUCK ON YOU
4	DIABLO

Cine Nepo (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	MILAN
2	THE GATHERING
3 (DOLBY)	HAUNTED MANSION
4 (DTS)	STUCK ON YOU

Cine Nepo (Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	MILAN
2	TWO WEEKS NOTICE/WHAT A GIRL WANTS
3	SWEPT AWAY/MAID IN MANHATTAN
4 (DTS)	STUCK ON YOU

Cinema 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1	CHASING LIBERTY
2	MILAN
3 (DTS)	HAUNTED MANSION

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	MILAN
2 (DTS)	MILAN
3 (DOLBY)	HAUNTED MANSION
4	CHASING LIBERTY

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	MILAN
2 (DOLBY)	HAUNTED MANSION
3 (DTS)	CHASING LIBERTY
4	MILAN

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

1	TWINS EFFECTS
2	MILAN
3 (DOLBY)	LAST SAMURAI

Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	MILAN
2	MILAN
3 (DOLBY)	DIABLO
4 (DTS)	LAST SAMURAI

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795-3120

1	STUCK ON YOU
2	MILAN
3	MILAN

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	PURI
2	DIABLO
3	HAUNTED MANSION
4 (DTS)	MILAN

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	HAUNTED MANSION
2	CHASING LIBERTY
3 (DTS)	MILAN
4	BIBINGKA
5	IN THE CUT

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	CHASING LIBERTY
2	MILAN

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 249.2558

1	HAUNTED MANSION
2	MILAN
3	CHASING LIBERTY

Mega Center Mall (Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	THE GATHERING
2	BROTHER BEAR
3 (DTS)	LAST SAMURAI
4 (DOLBY)	MILAN

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel 520.8914

1 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	STUCK ON YOU
2	DIABLO
3	LAST SAMURAI
4	MILAN

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	PURI
2	MILAN

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More movies on pages A28, 29, 30 and 31

Pacquiao could be undisputed champion

By Salven L. Lagumbay

THERE'S a strong likelihood Manny Pacquiao could be recognized not just as the planet's best featherweight, but also as Asia's first undisputed world champion even before the year is over.

After shaming Mexican hero Marco Antonio Barrera last November to barge into the elite pound-for-pound list, Pacquiao is now on track to claim the WBC, WBA and IBF titles within the next eight months.

The latest rankings by the three major sanctioning bodies bolster this probability.

The Mexico-based World Boxing Council, in its most recent rankings for January, has placed Pacquiao as the mandatory challenger to the winner of the April 10 showdown between Korean Chi Injin and Michael Brodie in Manchester, England.

Yesterday, the Venezuela-based World Boxing Association also released its January ratings, placing Pacquiao as the No. 1 contender to champion Juan Manuel Marquez.

The New Jersey-based International Boxing Federation has also put Pacquiao as its No. 4 contender behind No. 3 Orlando Salido. The top two spots are vacant.

Now, with WBA/IBF featherweight champ Juan Manuel Marquez set to defend against Pacquiao on an HBO card set on May 22, the door is being opened for Pacquiao to become Asia's first-ever undisputed world champion.

"I talked to Kerry Davis (of HBO Sports) on that," Bob Arum, Marquez's promoter, said when asked by Maxboxing's Steve Kim regarding the Pacquiao-Marquez duel. "Murad Muhammad (Pacquiao's US promoter) and I made a deal subject to Pacquiao signing it and he's coming to New York to sit down with Murad and the HBO guys, I think next week," Arum stated.

A victory over Marquez for the WBA/IBF title will give Pacquiao the much-needed leverage going into a clash against the Chi-Brodie winner, who will be declared the WBC champ.

Xavier rips CKS quintet

DEFENDING champion Xavier School made short work of Chiang Kai Shek, 107-62, to stay within striking distance of pacesetter St. Stephen in the 28th MMTLBA at the Chiang Kai Shek gym.

Xavier raced to a 30-13 lead after 10 minutes and never looked back to register its seventh win in nine games, just a game behind St. Stephen's 8-1 mark.

Earlier, UNO coasted to its fifth win in nine starts at the expense of cellar-dweller St. Jude (1-8), 88-74.

BAP hit hard for snubbing pro league

By June Navarro

THE SHOCKING official snob by the Basketball Association of the Philippines on the pro league offer to handle the RP national cage team to the ABC championships and the Asiad received the expected scathing reaction yesterday.

"If they don't wish the PBA to be a part of the national team, so be it," PBA Commissioner Noli Eala countered.

EALA: So be it

The PBA, which has been sending pro selections to the Asian Games since 1990, altered its calendar this year in an effort to start early and form a more formidable selection for major international competitions.

"We respect their decision if they don't want us. But let me tell them this: Don't burn your bridges. It's a simple lesson in life that should not be neglected," added Eala, who spearheaded moves to change the league's calendar to accommodate the national team.

Basketball Association of the Philippines Inc. (Bapi) secretary general Nic Jorge yesterday branded BAP secretary general Graham Lim as "shortsighted and lacking in legitimate purpose to boost the sport."

Lim on Thursday said they would rather train the national team using their resources than allow the PBA to involve itself in the formation of the team.

He said the BAP has developed a long-term program for the national squad in preparation for the ABC and the Asian Games backed up by their chief supporter, Cebuana Lhuillier.

The PBA has dumped its old January-December schedule in favor of the September-May season calendar to synchronize the league with the International Basketball Federation (Fiba).

In an effort to soften the expected criticism, Lim yesterday called the INQUIRER to explain he did not say that they don't need the PBA.

"We need the PBA to reinforce the national team," Lim said.

Asked if the PBA would be willing to lend its players despite the BAP's insistence to independently run the show, Eala said the pro league program for the national team would definitely fail to achieve its objectives should that happen.

Jorge, whose group has been contesting the legitimacy of the BAP, said the act of isolating the country's top league from its involvement in basketball development was unthinkable.

Jorge added that his group, the Basketball Association of the Philippines Inc. (Bapi), remains steadfast in its commitment to draw all stakeholders in their bid to organize a "truly nationwide basketball superbody."

First Ladies Fil-Am golf up Feb. 17

BAGUIO CITY—A modest field of 75 will see action in the historic inaugural First Ladies Fil-Am Invitational golf tournament which tees off on Tuesday at the Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay golf courses.

The participants represent clubs from Negros Occidental, Philippine Navy, Alabang, Victorias, Riviera, Manila Southwoods, Forest Hills and hosts Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay.

"It's all systems go for the staging of this historic golf tournament," said Anthony de Leon, general manager of BCC.

Dream, ambition, gratitude

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IT WAS my dream to make it big as an athlete. But I was not meant to be. Seemingly, fate had been unkind to me.

I had wanted to become a successful professional cyclist. You know, Eden, Abaquita, De Guzman, Moring, Delin, Camat, Cuison, Sumalde, Padilla, Quilban and Garcia were the cycling heroes at that time.

But it didn't happen. I got whipped by my mother for pedaling a tricycle-for-hire in my desire to earn some money for school snacks, not to mention using the three-wheel bike in a bid to toughen my legs. I had wanted to join the Tour of Luzon cycling marathon even before I could turn 13.

"You stop your foolishness or you're gonna die of TB," my mother (bless her soul) said to me. "Look at yourself. You are nothing but sticks and bones and you wanna join the Tour of Luzon?"

And then she had me lie down on a bench, face down. And, using a bamboo stick, she gave me 10 lashes in the ass.

"You do that again and you'll get twenty" she said.

End of my dream.

But I'm not complaining. Not anymore. I appreciate, as I always will, what has become of me. I appreciate, as I always will, what my mother had done to me. For, not long after the whipping, I was taken to a hospital in Dagupan City. Weak lungs.

"Give him six eggs a day and lots of milk, morning and evening," I heard the doctor telling Laki Usyong (bless his soul), my father's *capataz* in the Public Works who had brought me to the hospital for checkup. Back in those days, when the roads were unpaved and muddy after just a minor downpour, Dagupan City was a good three hours away from my hometown of Mangatarem in Pangasinan.

Gosh, those were the days, indeed. Going to Dagupan from my town, now that the roads had been paved, has become but a breeze: Just a little under 60 minutes.

In retrospect, I've had my share of ups and downs in those years of transition. But for what I am today, I have no regrets. For, had I become big time, a superstar cyclist that is, I might have done something wrong that would have given my buddies reason to hate me for the rest of my life: Turn my back maybe on my land of birth, flaunting my talent elsewhere (Tour de France, Giro Italia, or Tour de Langkawi?) and not giving something back to where I came from. Maybe, God made me this way so that I won't go astray?

I count my blessings all the time, not only when I'm down.

It's happened a lot of times already. Homegrown talents forgetting their roots when they've reached the top. What's that saying again that reminds us never to forget where we came from, else we'd go nowhere, or, worse, we'd crash to the ground real bad after we've outlived our usefulness?

It goes like this, "Don't forget the people you pass by on your way up because they are the same people you are going to see on your way down."

You forget where you came from, the people who peopled your formative years, you are worst than an ingrate. Parasite.

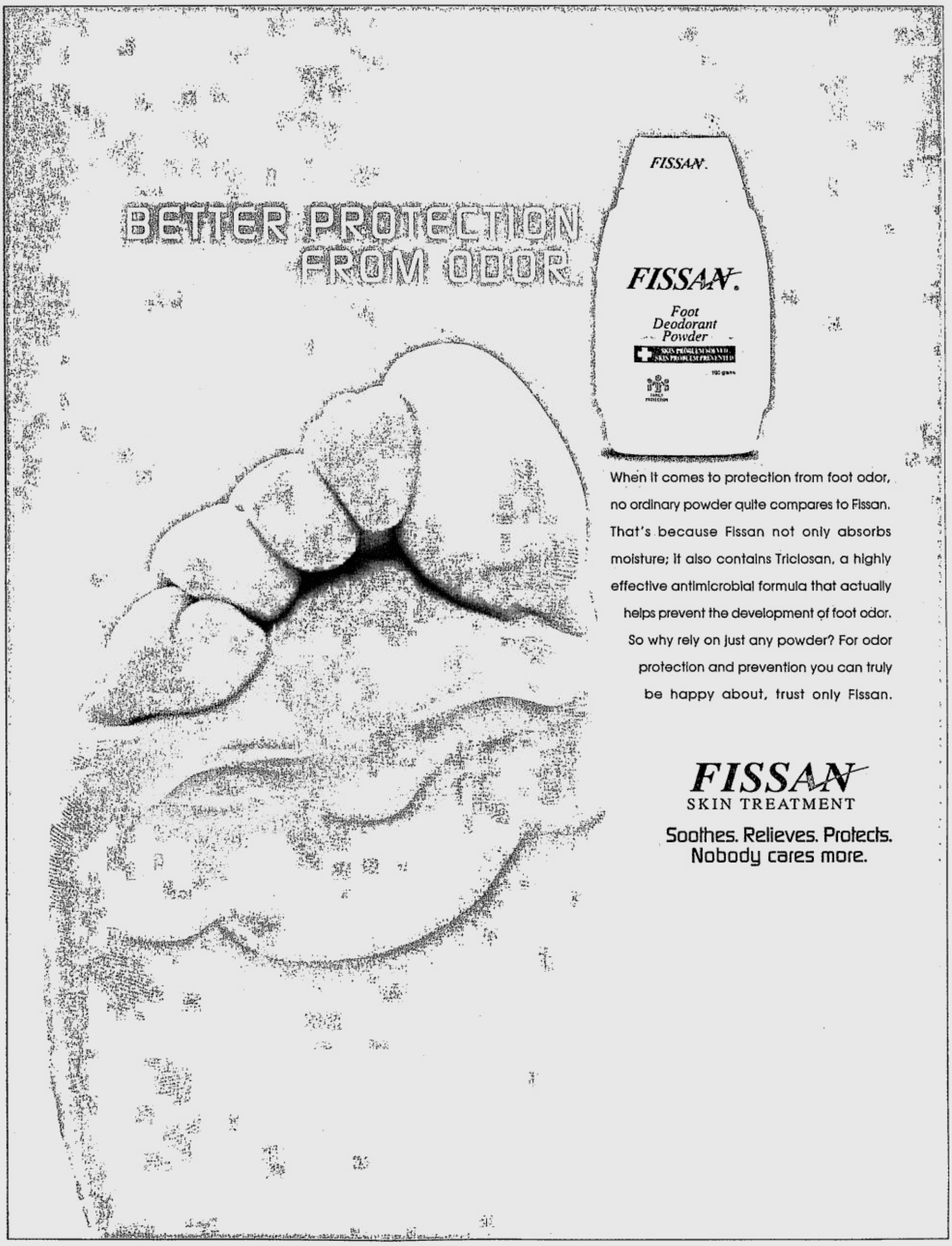
If I had hit it big, I would have had a manager by now. But maybe, just maybe, if that had happened, I would have required as a condition before signing a contract for someone to handle my career this: If a tournament's schedule that I am supposed to play would conflict with a tournament set in my hometown, the tournament in my hometown would come first.

A tough act to follow?

Not really. The soil, the wind, the river that nurtured you, and the wrinkled hands that protected you, are absolutely non-negotiable.

If you think otherwise, you know not the meaning of the saying, "Gratitude is the highest virtue on earth."

Perish the thought of excessive ambition, of greed and envy, and you'll be nobler than noble all your life.



When it comes to protection from foot odor, no ordinary powder quite compares to Fissan. That's because Fissan not only absorbs moisture; it also contains Triclosan, a highly effective antimicrobial formula that actually helps prevent the development of foot odor. So why rely on just any powder? For odor protection and prevention you can truly be happy about, trust only Fissan.

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Miñoza trails Korean by 5

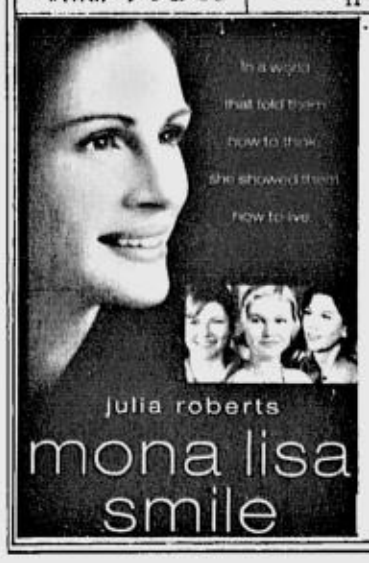
FRANKIE Miñoza launched his 2004 campaign Thursday with an even-par 72 that left him five strokes behind Mo Joong-kyung of Korea in the $200,000 Myanmar Open at the Yangon Golf Club in Yangon, Myanmar.

The 44-year-old Miñoza, playing alongside Manila-based Canadian Rick Gibson, was in a tie for 24th with six others. Gibson shot a 68 and shared second spot with South African Craig Kamps and Alistair Presnell of Australia.

Gibson, who lives in Alabang with his Filipino wife, said he was in inspired form playing alongside Miñoza.

Gibson will defend the Philippine Open crown two weeks from now at the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Cavite.

MTRCB ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult



Julia Roberts dazzles in 'Mona Lisa Smile'

Ladies, give yourselves a special treat, and bring your sisters, classmates, girlfriends, Mom, or even a date, to see Julia's new movie.

Academy Award®-winner Julia Roberts heads a powerhouse cast with today's hot young Hollywood actresses - Kirsten Dunst (*Spider-Man*) and Julia Stiles (*Save the Last Dance, 10 Things I Hate About You*) - in an uplifting, heart-wrenching, and often-times funny drama.

Julia Roberts stars as Katherine, a teacher who challenges her bright female students, and discovers herself along the way.

Mike Newell, director of romantic comedy *Four Weddings & a Funeral*, megs a must-see movie to capture your heart and put a smile on your face.

Warming hearts at a theatre near you
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OPENS FEBRUARY 18 !

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7 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS
13 BRITISH ACADEMY FILM AWARD NOMINATIONS INCLUDING BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR
And the film David Denby of The New Yorker calls
"STUNNING ENTERTAINMENT!"

COLD MOUNTAIN
FEBRUARY 18
MIRAMAX
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

SHOWING TONIGHT!
at Pelikula at Lipunan SM MEGAMALL Cinema 6

FALL IN LOVE TONIGHT with the film that has stunned the critics!
COLD MOUNTAIN
TONIGHT ONLY AT 9PM, SM Megamall, Cinema 6

ALSO SHOWING TONIGHT:
12:30pm GAY SHORTS — A Selection of shorts that explore the boundaries of the other sexes!
6:30pm GREENLIGHTS directed by ROBERT H. LIEBERMAN

Tickets at 4104545 / 7271961

Instituto Cervantes Warning
Love is Dangerous to your Health!
6 Spanish Love Stories

Juana La Loca . You're The One
Son De Mar . Sin Vergüenza
El Perro Del Hortelano
La Buena Estrella

February 9-15, 2004
Greenbelt 1 Cinema 1

Ayala Cinemas | Art Film | For inquiries, call 752 7865

SHOWING TONIGHT!
at Pelikula at Lipunan SM MEGAMALL Cinema 6

GREENLIGHTS
A highly acclaimed comedy by Robert H. Lieberman!

ALSO SHOWING TODAY:
3pm POETIC SHORTS — The premiere screening of 4 new works from Mowelfund Film Institute
9pm COLD MOUNTAIN directed by ANTHONY MINGHELLA

TONIGHT ONLY AT 6:30PM SM Megamall Cinema 6

Tickets at 4104545 / 7271961

OPENS FEB. 18 EXCLUSIVELY AT Art Film
AYALA CINEMAS
BOLDLY. AWARD-WINNING. EXTRAORDINARY

From master storyteller Jim Sheridan ("My Left Foot," "In The Name of the Father") comes a deeply personal and emotionally raw tale of a family finding its soul *IN AMERICA*. Through the wide-open eyes of two young heroines, Sheridan transforms a devastating human tragedy into a riveting, humor-tinged story about memory, secrets, love, loss, coming together and starting over.

IN AMERICA

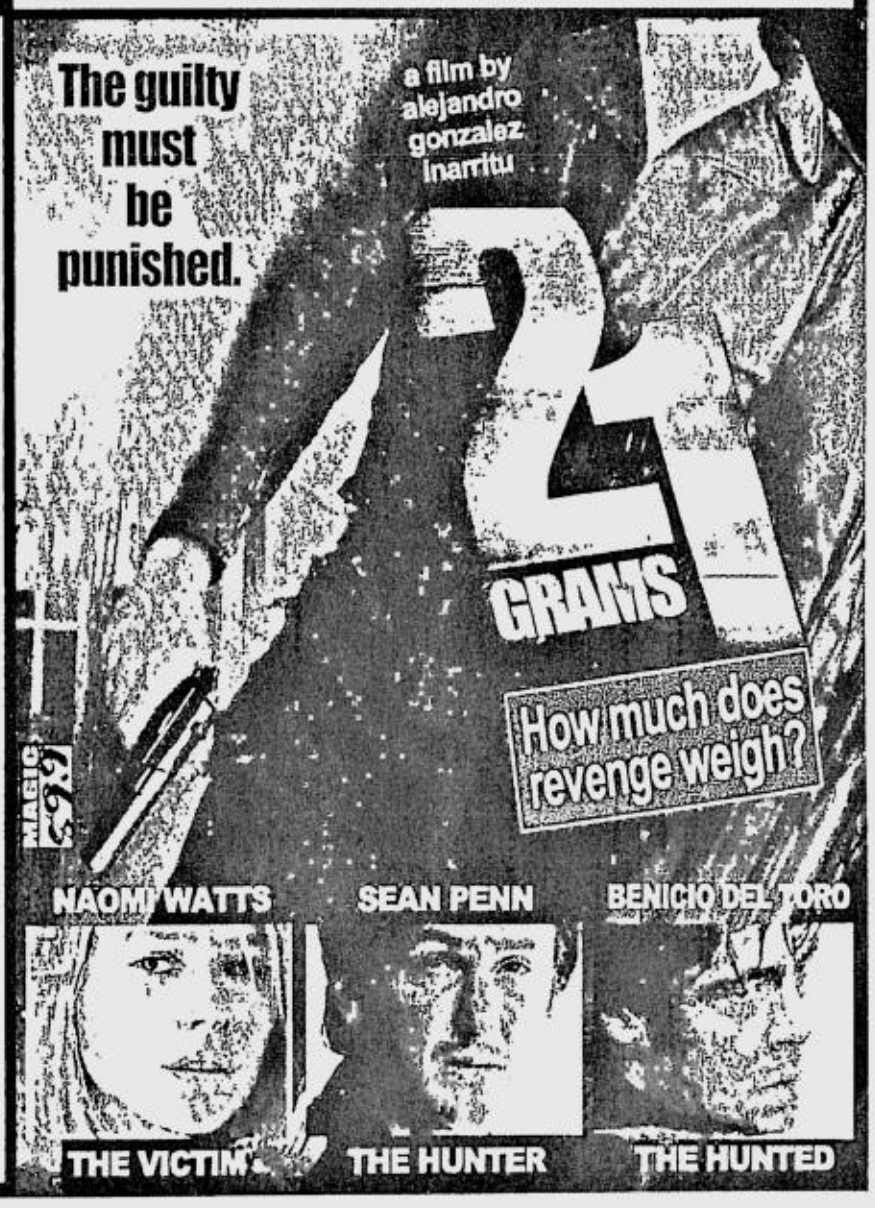
3 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS
BEST ACTRESS — Samantha Morton
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR — Djimon Hounsou
BEST SCREENPLAY — Jim Sheridan, Naomi Sheridan & Kirsten Sheridan

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

OPENS FEB. 18

THE MOST TALK-ABOUT MOVIE OF THE YEAR
ACADEMY AWARD® NOMINATIONS
BEST ACTOR — BENICIO DEL TORO
BEST ACTRESS — NAOMI WATTS

WINNER BEST ACTOR 2003 Venice International Film Festival
WINNER BEST FILM OF THE YEAR, BEST ACTOR 2003 National Board of Review
WINNER BEST ACTRESS 2003 Online Film Critics Society
WINNER BEST ACTRESS 2003 Los Angeles Film Critics Association
WINNER BEST ACTRESS 2003 Chicago Movie Critics
WINNER BEST ACTRESS 2003 San Diego Film Critics
WINNER BEST ACTRESS 2003 Southeastern Film Critics
WINNER BEST PICTURE 2003 NY Online Film Critics
WINNER BEST ACTRESS 2003 Florida Film Critics
WINNER BEST ACTOR, BEST ACTRESS 2003 Washington DC Film Critics



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MILAN PG13 1:35, 4:10, 6:45, 9:20	HAUNTED MANSION GP 11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40	MILAN PG13 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
WISHING STAIRS R13 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15 CHASING LIBERTY PG13 9:20	MONA LISA SMILE PG13 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	CHASING LIBERTY PG13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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'Tryouts ng Bayan' draws record field

By Roy Luarca

TACURONG, Sultan Kudarat—The coaching staff had their hands full yesterday as 210 players showed up for the RP-Cebuana Lhuillier "Tryouts ng Bayan" at the Provincial Capitol Gym here.

Sixty aspirants attended the national pool tryouts in the morning while 150 youngsters, 12-17 years old, joined the basketball clinic in the afternoon.

"Originally, 300 had wanted to join the clinic but we couldn't accommodate such a big number," said coach Dong Vergeire. "The ideal really is 70."

Vergeire, who is supervising the undertaking with fellow national mentor Boyzie Zamar, said there were talented players during the tryouts but they still need more polishing.

Players from nearby areas, including Koronadal City, bolstered the ranks of the hopefuls. Councilor Dodo Agreda headed the Marbel delegation.

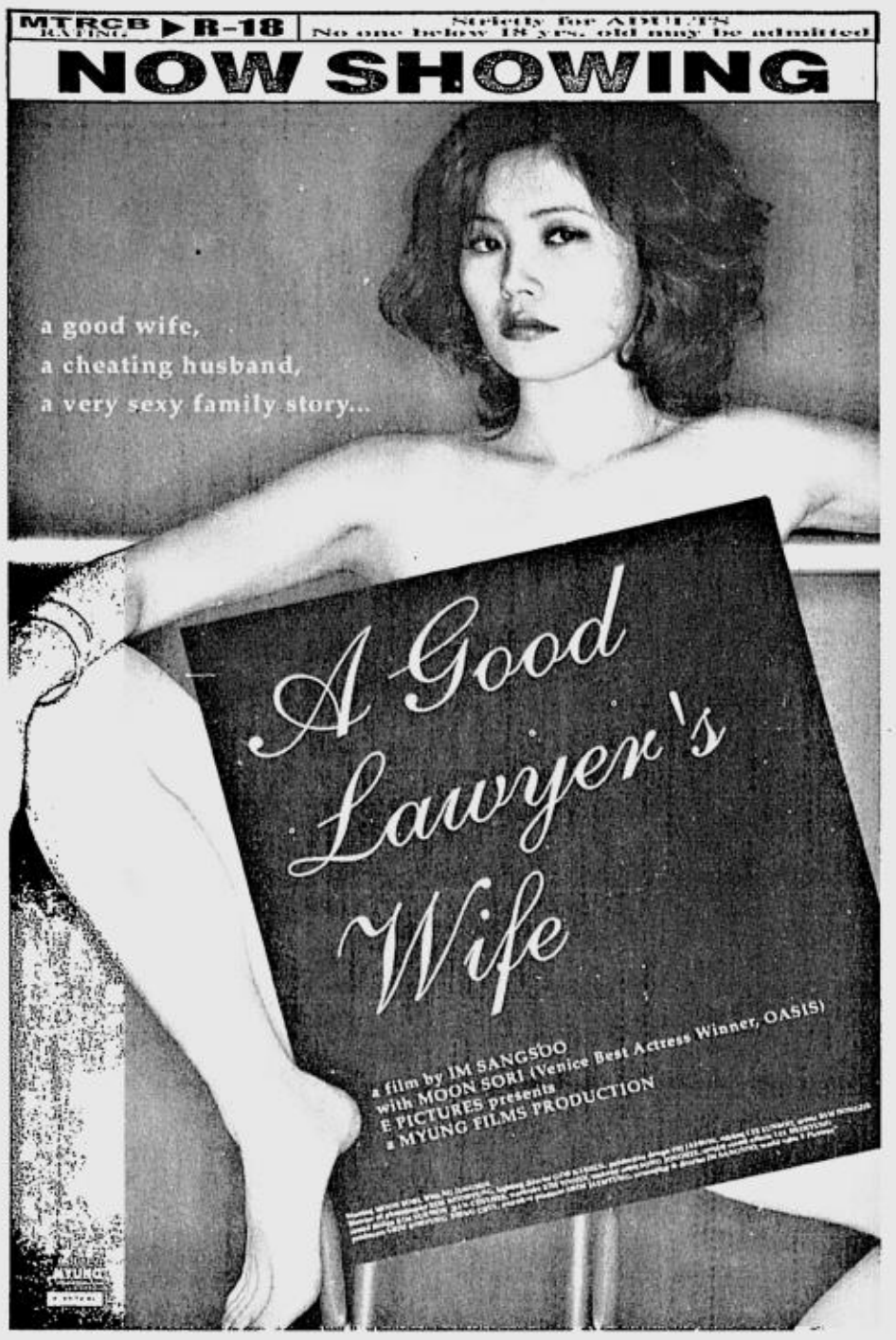
The two-month, city-hopping tryouts is a brainchild of Philippine team manager Jean Henri Lhuillier and is being supported by Cebuana Lhuillier and Accel in coordination with the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

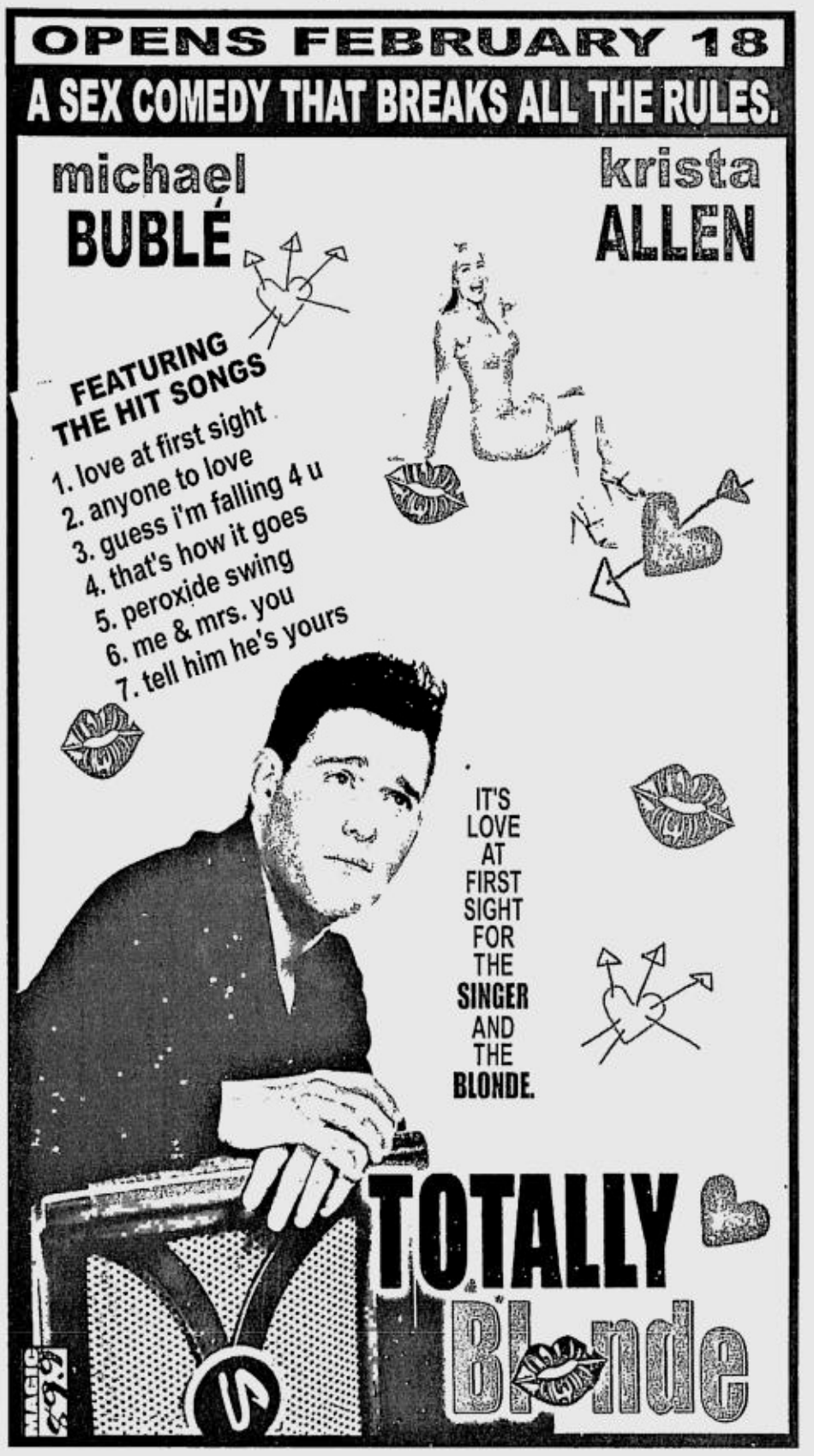
Vice Governor Miguel Jacalan coordinated the holding of the Tryouts ng Bayan here in his capacity as BAP director for Region XII.

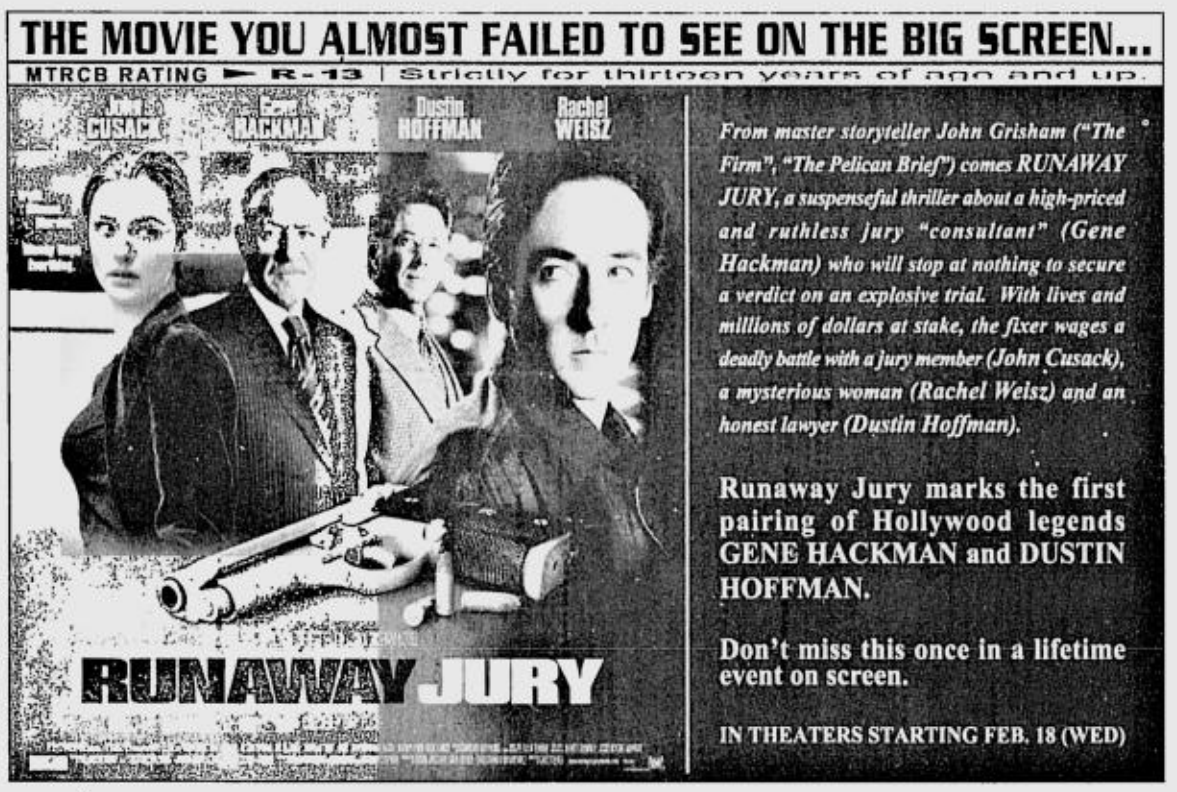
During the first two stops of the program in Cagayan de Oro and Davao City, respectively, the coaching staff identified and invited 10 players, led by 6-foot-9 Samigue Eman, to join the national pool.

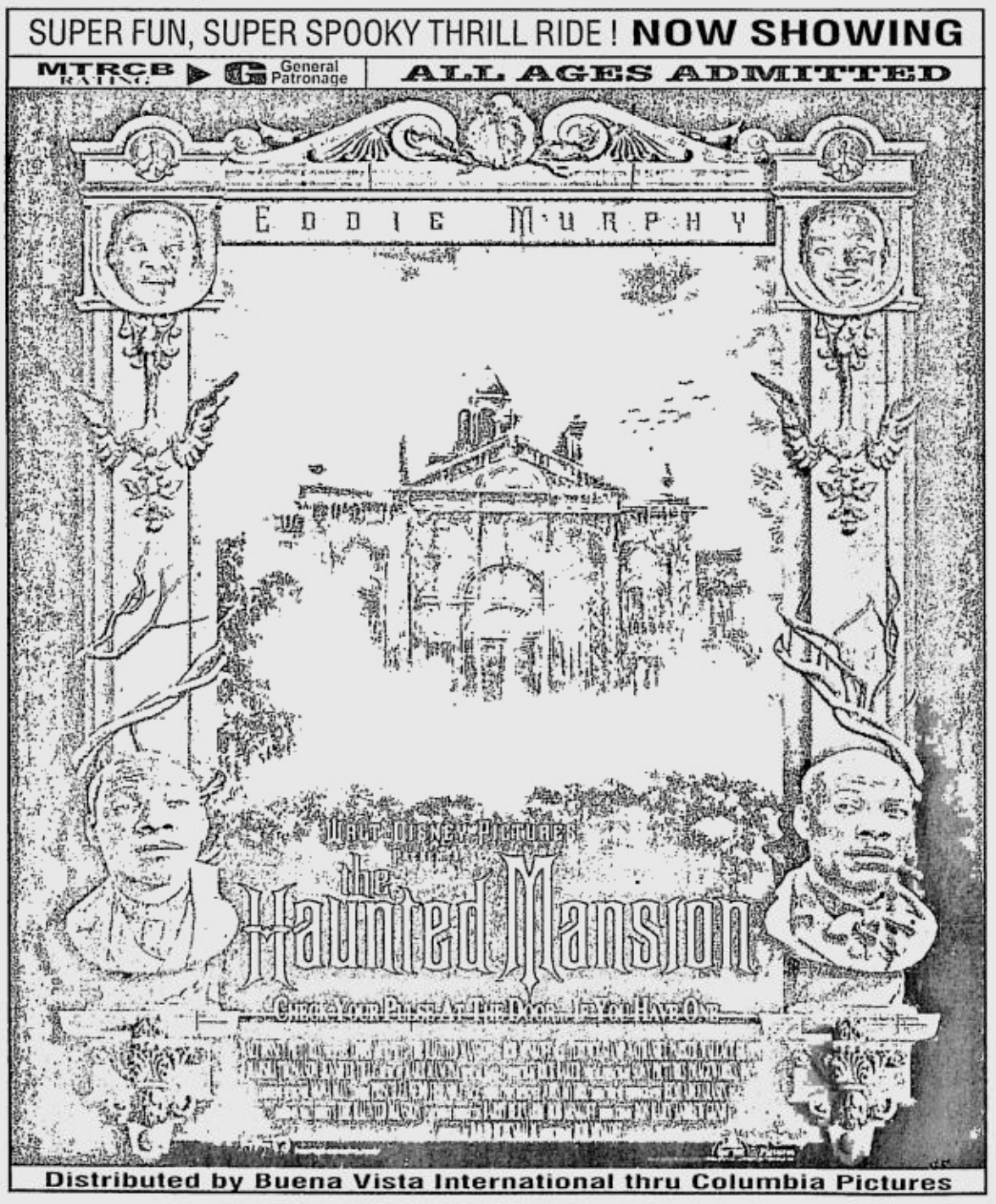
Top cockers vying in NCA derby

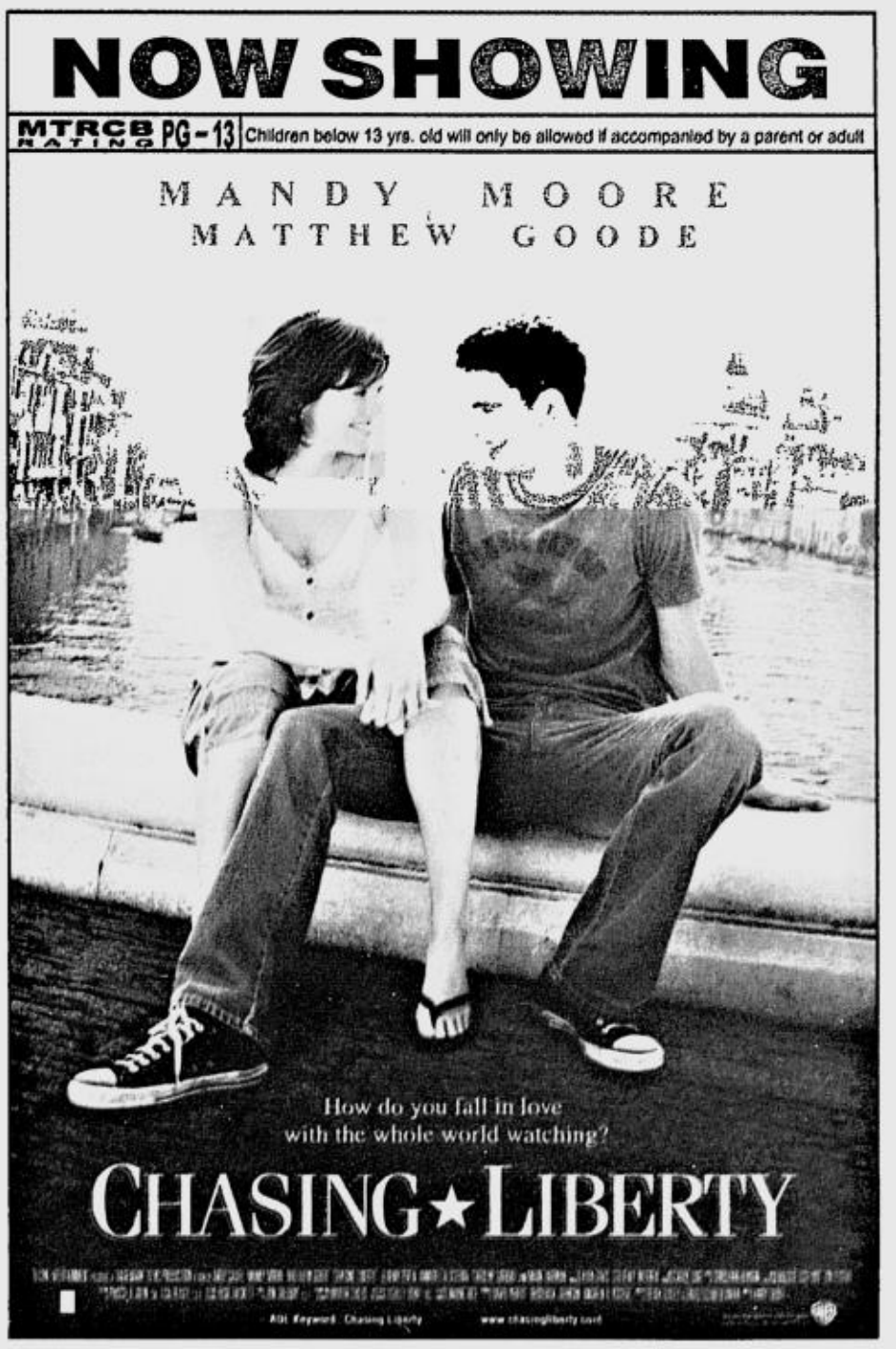
SOME of the country's most prominent cockers and breeders are competing in the National Cockers Association (NCA) 7-Cock Derby set Monday and Wednesday at the Araneta Coliseum. At least 35 entries have already confirmed for the derby hosted by Fil-Am cockers Rene Medina and Ric de Guzman, Ruel Feliciano, Boy Jiao of Rizal and Jun Mendoza. Submission of weights is set tomorrow from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 911-3101 and 911-2928 and look for Gloria Abena. Meanwhile, three entries shared the championship in the recent NCA 7-Cock Derby. These were Binangonan Balbina I, Jimafer Mapalad I and Lucky Rin Binangonan.











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SM CINEMA

what to watch

Romance

"MILAN"

The story follows the journey of naive Lino (Piolo Pascual) as he searches for his wife, Mary Grace, who has been missing since she left for Italy to work as a domestic helper. Arriving in Milan, Lino's one and only way of contacting Mary Grace botches up. But as fate would have it, he comes across Jenny (Claudine Barretto), a beautiful Italian-speaking Filipina who helps him find his wife. Both found themselves drawn to each other.

now showing

MTRCB Rating: PG

DIAL 8339999 for screening schedules

up next

February 18
Subject to MTRCB Rating

February 25
MTRCB Rating R13

March 10
Subject to MTRCB Rating

March 24
Subject to MTRCB Rating

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AYALA MALLS

Beauty and the Beast

AYALA CENTER
Feb. 20 - 5pm, 7pm
Feb 21 - 11am, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm
Feb 22 - 11am, 3pm, 5pm

GLORIETA
AYALA TRIANGLE GARDENS
Feb 27 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
Feb 28 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
Feb 29 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Mar. 5 - 4pm, 7:30pm
Mar. 6 - 11am, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm
Mar. 7 - 11:30am, 3pm, 6:30pm

SHOWING TOMORROW!
at Pelikula at Lipunan SM MEGAMALL Cinema 6

RILES

The internationally renowned and multi-awarded documentary by our very own DITSI CAROLINO

TOMORROW AT 4PM SM Megamall Cinema 6

ALSO SHOWING TOMORROW at 6:30pm

EDADES

The digital full-lenght docudrama by NICK DEOCAMPO

Tickets at 4104545 / 7271961

NOW SHOWING AT ALL AYALA CINEMAS

CLAUDINE BARRETTO PIOLO PASCUAL

Olivia Lamasan's

MILAN

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GRADED B by the Cinema Evaluation Board

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

Ayala Cinemas. Beyond Movies.

SHOWING TOMORROW!
at Pelikula at Lipunan SM MEGAMALL Cinema 6

ALSO SHOWING TOMORROW at 4pm

RILES

The internationally renowned documentary by DITSI CARDLINO

EDADES

The new digital full-lenght film from acclaimed director NICK DEOCAMPO about VICTORIO C. EDADES, the father of Modernism!

TOMORROW AT 6:30PM SM Megamall Cinema 6

Tickets at 4104545 / 7271961

Supermodel Krista Allen in TOTALLY BLONDE

Supermodel Krista Allen's talent and beauty has made a noticeable mark in the entertainment and modelling industry.

Krista receives consistent editorial requests from Europe, Australia, Asia and South Africa. Publicity venues are at a constant demand not only because of her work, but also her genuine star appeal. Krista's most recent covers and features have been in Maxim, Maxim UK, Prinz (Germany), Stuff, Oxygen, Gear, DT (Spain), Ralph (Australia), InStyle (UK) and The One magazines. This year, Stuff, Maxim and FHM magazines listed Krista as one of the world's most beautiful women. She has signed on to be the spokesperson for the new LUX soap campaign out of South Africa and Europe. Krista will also be featured in the 2004 MAXIM calendar.

She will play the lead in the much-anticipated sex comedy "Totally Blonde" from Dimension Pictures.

A sex comedy in the vein of American Pie, Krista stars with crooner Michael Buble who sang a number of songs in the movie.

OPENS FEBRUARY 25!

MTRCB RATING R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

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A FILM BY NANCY MEYERS

SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE

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COLUMBIA PICTURES

LIKE FATHER: Kevin Stadler up by 1 with a 64. AP

BUICK INVITATIONAL

Stadler's son spoils Tiger-Singh showdown

SAN DIEGO, California—Kevin Stadler, the son of 1982 US Masters champion Craig, produced a birdie-eagle finish to snatch the first-round lead on eight-under-par 64 at the $4.5 million Buick Invitational on Thursday.

The much-anticipated clash between world No.1 and defending champion Tiger Woods and No. 2 Vijay Singh failed to materialize.

Both players shot one-under-par 71s to trail the 24-year-old Kevin Stadler by seven strokes.

Stadler, who played the easier North course at Torrey Pines, was one stroke clear of Ted Purdy and Sweden's Jesper Parnevik.

Two shots back on 66 were Kevin Sutherland, Sweden's Mathias Gronberg, Craig Barlow, Bob Tway and Tom Lehman.

While all the leaders played the North course, Woods, Singh and Phil Mickelson, who struggled to a 74, were in action on the difficult South.

Woods is fresh from a four-week break.

"I am just trying to get back in the competitive flow," he told reporters. "It took a few holes to get back into it and, from there, trying to basically keep myself out of trouble.

"This golf course can definitely put you in a pretty good hurt and could put you behind. Everyone is tearing apart the North, so I need to do that tomorrow."

The North course played nearly four strokes easier than the South. Both are par 72s.

Stadler, 24, is playing in only his fourth PGA Tour event.

Last week at the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, he made his first cut and tied for 61st place.

Kevin's father Craig, a 13-time PGA Tour winner, triumphed at the Buick Invitational in 1994.

One of Stadler's closest pursuers on Thursday was the back-to-form Parnevik. *Reuters*

Talk-of-the-league Yao ready for All-Star game

LOS ANGELES—As the National Basketball Association heads into Sunday's All-Star Game, Yao Ming is the talk of the league.

The Houston Rockets center suits up for the 2004 All-Star Game with added confidence after outplaying Shaquille O'Neal on Wednesday.

Yao closed the deal for the Rockets in his final game before the break, with 15 points in the final quarter. O'Neal fouled out with three minutes left and was outscored by Yao 29-24.

In 52 games this season, Yao is averaging 16.5 points and ranks second in field-goal percentage at 52.7 percent. This will mark his second straight all-star appearance. *AFP*

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

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SCREENING TIME:

GALLERIA:
Cinema 5 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

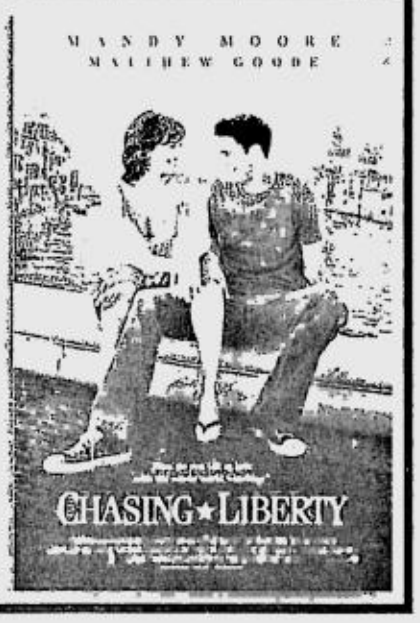
ERMITA:
Cinema 7 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

MEGA EAST:
Cinema 10:25, 12:50, 3:35, 6:20, 9:05

MTRCB Rating: PG-13

For screening time, pls. call our MOVIE ACCESS no: 631-5555

visit: www.robinsonsmovieworld.com



Lenard lifts Nuggets past Blazers

NEW YORK—Voshon Lenard scored 31 points to inspire the Denver Nuggets to a 107-98 win over the host Portland Trail Blazers Thursday.

The new-look Blazers paraded Shareef Abdur-Rahim, Theo Ratliff and Dan Dickau, the three players they acquired from Atlanta Monday in exchange for Rasheed Wallace, but could still find no way past the improving Nuggets.

Other NBA games: Chicago 107, Boston 87; Seattle 94, Toronto 74. *Reuters*

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EMELIE NETFEST

Showdown for Santos, Arevalo

HOT favorites Tracy Santos and Czarina Mae Arevalo bulldozed their way to a championship showdown in the 2004 Hotel Emelie All-Women's Tennis Open yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The top-seed Santos unleashed a flurry of winners to stop upset-conscious Josephine Paguyo, 6-0, 6-1, while No. 2 Arevalo proved too tough for age grouper Bien Zoleta, 6-2, 6-0.

Santos and Arevalo, RP mainstays who won a bronze medal in team play during the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games last year, dispute the P10,000 champion's purse in the Hotel Emilie netfest organized in cooperation with Avon Beauty Products, Milo, adidas, Wilson balls and the Philippine Sports Commission with sanction from the Philippine Tennis Association.

Arevalo holds a 3-2 edge over Santos in their head-to-head duel.

Santos and Arevalo later teamed up against the youthful Zoleta-Ivy de Castro tandem for the women's doubles title.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	MILAN
Ali 2	WISHING STAIRS
Ali 3	THE HAUNTED MANSION
Ali 4	CHASING LIBERTY
Ali 5	LAST SAMURAI
Ali 6	MAGIC KITCHEN
Ali 7	THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

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FEB 14	JOHN FORD COLEY CONCERT (RETRO LOVE)
FEB 15	OGIE & REGINE CONCERT
FEB 16	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
FEB 18	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
FEB 22	PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE OPENING
FEB 25	PBA GAMES

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	POSSESSION / HUGOG
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	MILAN
B	
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MILAN
CINEMA-2	LAST SAMURAI
CINEMA-3	GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MONALISA SMILE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BROTHER BEAR
CINEMA-6	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSCRE
CINEMA-7	LOLLIPOP
CINEMA-8	IN THE CUT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	CHASING LIBERTY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HAUNTED MANSION
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	MAGIC KITCHEN
CINEMA-12	WISHING STAIRS
CINEMA-14	MILAN
CINEMA-15	MILAN

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	LAST SAMURAI
CINEMA-1	MILAN
CINEMA-2	BROTHER BEAR
CINEMA-4	GATHERING

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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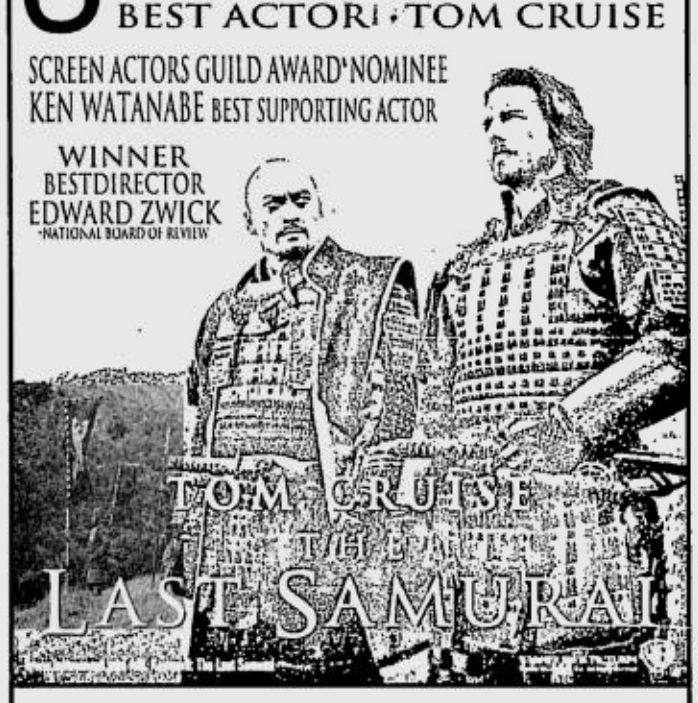

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GP

CINEMA 2
CHASING LIBERTY
11:05, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
P13

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3 HAUNTED MANSION
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4 MAGIC KITCHEN 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:10, 10:00
5 CHASING LIBERTY 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
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4 WISHING STAIRS 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
5 MAGIC KITCHEN 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
6 HAUNTED MANSION 10:40, 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 8:35, 10:00
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5 MAGIC KITCHEN 11:50, 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10
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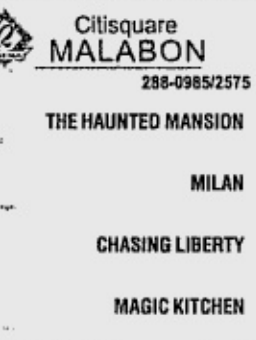
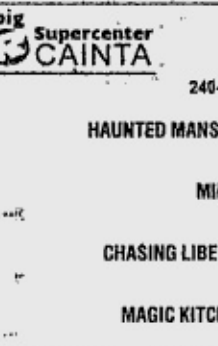

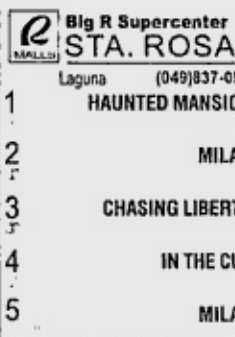

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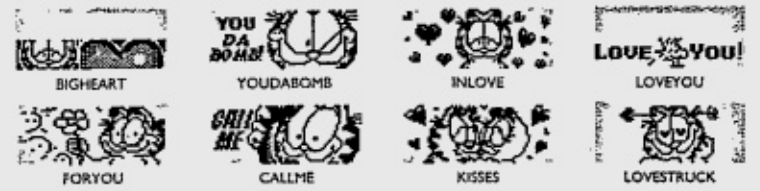

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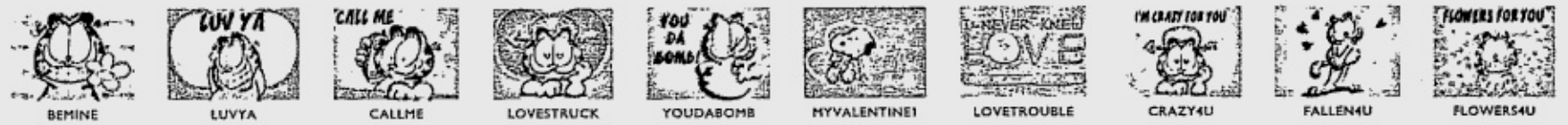

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Peso falls to 56.10:$1; gov't sells $1.3-B bonds

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE SPECTER of an uncertain weekend and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' decision not to raise overnight rates drove the peso back to the 56:$1 level, making it the the region's worst performer yesterday.

The local currency closed at 56.10 to a dollar from 55.975 last Thursday, a week after the central bank raised the banks' reserve requirement by 2 percentage points to 19 percent.

Last week's policy action and threats of additional measures kept the peso within the high 55:$1 level for a week until the Monetary Board decided yesterday to keep rates unchanged.

Turnover at the Philippine Dealing System reached $181.5 million, of which $134 million was transacted in the morning. Traders said the BSP capped the exchange rate at 56.10:$1 and sold as much as $20 million.

But despite the uncertainties in the domestic market, the government sold $1.3 billion worth of global bonds due in 2011. Of the total, however, only $120 million in fresh money was raised.

The government still needed to raise $680 million to complete its $1.85-billion external financing requirement this year. National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the country extended the maturity of its foreign debt by 2.7 years while it freed up millions in dollars of US treasuries used as collateral for the Brady bonds issued in the early 1990s.

Investors swapped $1.18 billion worth of old, shorter-term and relatively more expensive bonds with the new seven-year sovereign debt papers.

Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong said the successful transaction reflected the continued confidence of investors in the Philippines.

"This also shows the government's efforts in improving the liability profile are bearing fruit. All these efforts will strengthen the country's financial position," the finance chief said.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura blamed the weak dollar remittances and sluggish exports alongside an increased import bill for putting pressure on the peso. Continuing political uncertainties, he said, were not helping.

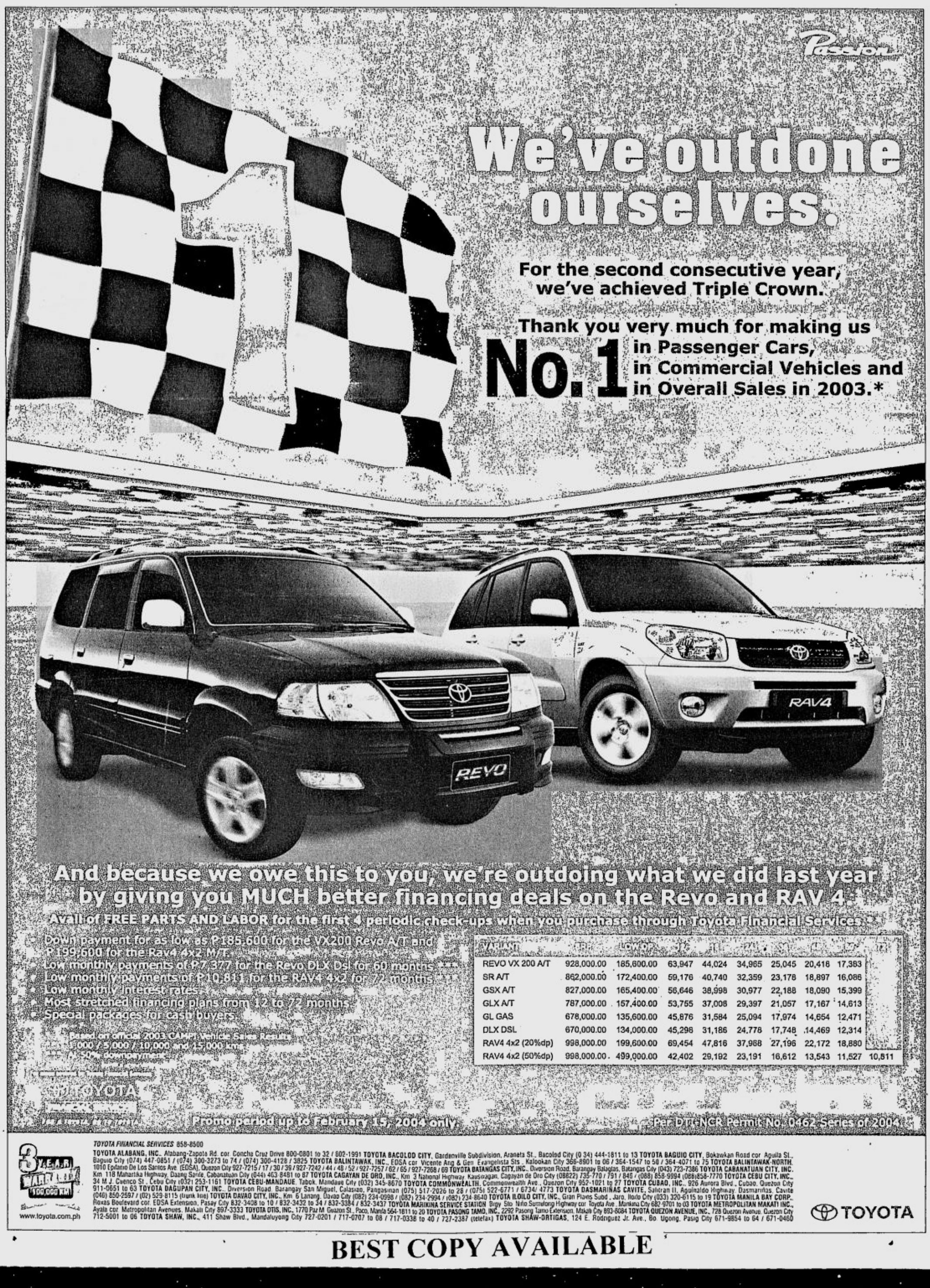
"There was corporate demand and some banks that were short in dollars decided to buy given the continued uncertainties on the political front. Companies were also buying their dollars ahead of the requirement so there was pressure on the peso yesterday," said a treasury official from a foreign bank.

The veiled threat of the BSP last Thursday "to consider further policy measures" was ignored by the market.

Bankers said the central bank sent a bad signal that it was going to lay low for the meantime until it needed to tighten its monetary policy anew to avert the peso's decline. Overnight rates were kept at 6.75 percent for borrowing and 9 percent for lending.

As for the global bonds, the government said it had reduced the debt level in 2006 by $323 million, in 2008 by $252 million, in 2009 by $336 million and the remaining Brady bonds by $315 million.

At the same time, the country was able to release $28 million in US treasuries used as collateral for the Brady bonds.



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SRA moves to siphon off excess sugar supply

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE SUGAR Regulatory Authority will set up a sugar reserve that will be earmarked for the domestic market and, at the same time, increase that for export to the United States.

The move is aimed at siphoning off excess sugar supply in the market to arrest the drop in prices.

The SRA plans to set aside 20 percent of the total sugar production for the domestic market reserve and 4 percent for the reserve earmarked for export to the US.

Sugar production this year is expected to hit 900,000 tons.

"To keep domestic sugar prices at a favorable level of not less than P700 per 50-kilo bag, we are putting up a domestic sugar reserve of 180,000 metric tons," said SRA Administrator James Ledesma in an interview yesterday.

Ledesma said the reserve would be a buffer from which the local market could draw when need arises. SRA would begin allocating 20 percent of the sugar production for the reserve next month.

The country will be accelerating exports to to the United States and the Asian market this year. Sugar shipments to these markets are expected to reach 100,000 metric tons in the first quarter.

"This will hopefully push up domestic prices, which have already gone down by P100 per bag due to excess supply," said Ledesma.

The sugar industry wants to keep prices at P700 for every 50-kilo bag. Due to the recent glut, sugar prices have dropped to P500--P600 per bag.

The Philippines is exporting sugar to the US under a quota arrangement. It was given an allocation of 137,353 metric tons. Some 11,500 metric tons of sugar will be shipped to South Korea while another 15,000 metric tons will be exported to China.

In another development, the SRA and the Bureau of Internal Revenue have reached an agreement redefining the tax structure on sugar products.

"The new tax structure and re-classification of products to be taxed will raise for the government over P1 billion in revenue," said Ledesma.

The SRA and the BIR have decided to change the way the 10 percent value-added tax (VAT) is collected from sugar traders.

Sugar cooperatives will now have to pay the VAT, which they can refund later.

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Hot-break hotel

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THAT surprise addition to this cute administration of Gloriaetta, Trade and Industry Secretary Cesar Purisima, perhaps does not mind his eleventh-hour appointment.

This late in this term of this cute administration, Purisima had to give up the top post at the giant SGV Group to replace senatorial candidate Mar Roxas at DTI.

It was said that he was virtually framed up to accept the job. Even now in the government, Purisima remains a practicing workaholic. No wonder, for the sake of those who do not get flowers and chocolates today, he is a confirmed bachelor.

From what I hear, anyway, Purisima is egging an international hotel chain to operate more hotels in the country, particularly in large cities outside Metro Manila.

The chain is only the InterContinental Hotels Group, which has five major hotel brands in a hundred or so countries. Purisima knows a hot break when he sees one.

* * *

AND his line of attack, like in any business, has something to do with brand recognition. The group carries well-known brands, aside from the top-of-the-line InterContinental.

It actually set up the first international hotel in this country, but today it also has Holiday Inn, Holiday Inn Express, Crowne Plaza, and Staybridge Suites.

Purisima obviously knows that people, by nature, want to stay in hotels with whose names they are familiar—not exactly that local chain with the "shhh" sign.

But none of such exists in the other major cities outside Manila. This, perhaps to Purisima, explains why we do not get a lot of the foreign travelers.

Purisima's targets, at least initially, from what I gathered, are the booming cities of General Santos and Cagayan de Oro in Mindanao. Yeah, why not!

* * *

ANYWAY, the InterContinental Hotels Group has been busy—meaning, "aggressive"—as it acquired new properties even here in the Philippines. It is ... well, hot!

Recently, the group wrapped up an arrangement with taipan John Gokongwei's JG Summit for two hotel properties at the busy Ortigas Center.

They were the Galleria Suites, recently renamed Holiday Inn Galleria, and the still-under-construction hotel beside it, which will become Crowne Plaza Hotel.

The group also opened the Holiday Inn Clark Field Resort, and as speculation has it, another one of the two other JG Summit hotels is in the pipeline.

Well, A. Patrick Imbardelli, Asia Pacific managing director, would not disclose whether or not negotiations with JG Summit are underway. I will find out soon, promise!

* * *

ACTUALLY, Imbardelli was one of the top executives of the InterContinental group who flew into Manila early this week for a little inauguration.

Whadayano—the CEO himself, Richard North, originally a finance man by calling, also came here from London.

And all those doomsayers are telling us that this country was hopeless!

Listen to this: North and company just set up a P300-million-plus customer service center here, their fourth one in the region.

The other three are in China, Japan and Australia. See, at least in the plans of this international hotel chain, I say we are in good company.

* * *

BUT what exactly does the group see in the hotel business here? According to North, the moneyman himself, the hotel business always grows together with the economy. I see!

Still, the hotel business in Manila, particularly those near the Manila Bay, is not doing as well as the economy. The GDP is growing, but they are dying.

Maybe that's why the InterContinental Group took off on its expansion here with hotels at the Ortigas Center.

Well, the market for hotels there basically attracts business travelers. Tourists mostly stay at the hotels near the bay, and they are dying.

I just don't know if it tells us something about senatorial candidate Dick Gordon's stint at the DOT, but at least we saw some big increases in "arrivals" under him.

* * *

THAT the bay area hotels are losing heavily, apparently for lack of tourists, should give Purisima more reason to woo the InterContinental Group.

Really, the group can bring in the tourists. As North puts it, part of its attraction is, it does not belong to any nationality. It is neither American nor British.

North said theirs may be the only real "international" hotel brands. Actually, its first hotel was set in Brazil in South America, but nobody knows the group as a South American chain.

In other words, the hotel group has no nationality, which will soon happen to opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., a.k.a Sideburns.

Forget the show biz rallies, because the Supreme Court is said to be ready to declare Sideburns as ... well, NOT Filipino.

As Jesuit priest Joaquin Bernas, who is a recognized expert on the Constitution says, if Sideburns is not a Filipino, technically, he has no nationality. Just like InterContinental.

* * *

ANYWAY, the P300-million customer service center of InterContinental here serves the 15 million members of the group's Priority Club. The center fixes their room reservation and all that, in its more than 3,300 hotels in 100 countries, like which of 500,000 rooms they will get, a service they will need, because at any one time, some 300,000 guests are booked in its hotels. It seems the Manila customer center is going to be pretty busy. I tell you, this is a hot group.

Natural gas output up 42.6%

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy is expecting a rapid increase in the use of natural gas as domestic production rose 42.6 percent to about 88 billion standard cubic feet SCF in 2003, from about 66 billion SCF in 2002.

The figures represent total production from the Malampaya field in northwest Palawan and the San Antonio field in Isabela province.

Through the updated Philippine Energy Plan, the DOE aims to promote the local gas market and develop a downstream sector for the industry with the establishment of more power plants, the use of vehicles that run on compressed natural gas (CNG).

The agency is also pushing for the use of natural gas for cooling systems in industries.

The DOE said the electricity generation sector would continue to be the major user of natural gas within a decade, especially with the conversion of retired and aging oil-fired power plants for the use of gas.

At least three such plants are lined up for conversion, including the 850-megawatt Sucat plant in Parañaque City, the 620-MW Limay plant in Bataan and the 750-MW Malaya plant in Rizal.

In 10 years, the DOE said total generating capacity of gas-fired power plants would go up to 5,913 megawatts.

Presently, three plants in Batangas account for 2,700 MW. These are the 1,200-MW Ilijan plant, 1,000-MW Sta. Rita plant and 500-MW San Lorenzo plant. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of February 13, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	16,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17	17	17	17	7,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44.5	45	44.5	45	982,900
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	220
Citystate Savings Bank	16	16	16	16	200
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	39	39.5	39	39	28,700
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.54	0.56	700,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	25.5	26.5	25.5	26.5	1,413,000
Philippine National Bank	24	24	23.75	23.75	9,800
Phil. Savings Bank	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	35,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.5	14	13.5	14	13,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	1,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2000	2020	2000	2020	670
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	188	189	119	121	100,610
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1520	1520	1520	1520	280
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	23.25	23.75	23.25	23.5	26,500
Globe Telecom Inc.	890	890	880	885	4,370
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	800,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.039	0.039	0.038	0.039	1,200,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	1.38	1.6	1.38	1.58	51,053,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.36	103,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	960	960	940	940	236,050
Ivantage Corp.	0.35	0.38	0.35	0.38	120,000
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	4,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19.5	19.5	19	19.5	38,000
Manila Electric Co. B	31.5	32	31.5	32	339,800
Petron Corp.	3.45	3.6	3.4	3.55	9,631,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.26	1.26	110,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,350,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	45,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	666,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	112,200
San Miguel Corp. A	55.5	55.5	55	55	480,000
San Miguel Corp. B	68	69	67.5	69	122,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	500,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	110,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	20,000
Ayala Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	1,807,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	7,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	9,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.64	0.66	0.63	0.64	25,040,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.19	0.17	0.19	500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1	1	1	60,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24	24	23.5	23.75	600,700
Global Equities Inc.	0.06	0.065	0.06	0.065	300,000
Ionics Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	119,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	210,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.08	5,368,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.29	0.29	12,360,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	6,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	100,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	14,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.27	0.24	0.24	220,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	3,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1	1	1	1	10,000
Pryce Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	500,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.48	440,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	40,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.3	70,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	16,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	23.25	24	23.25	23.5	357,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series N	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	7,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	4,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	19,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	6,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	401,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	300,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	1,640,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	530,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.1	3,116,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.04	2.04	167,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	6	5.9	6	1,438,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.23	2,250,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.29	4,250,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	3,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	300,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	600,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	110,000

SEC OKs bigger Globe bond offer

By Abigail L. Ho

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission yesterday approved Globe Telecom Inc.'s application to increase its planned bond offering to P3 billion from the earlier approved P2.7 billion.

In an order issued Feb. 12, the SEC allowed Globe to sell an additional P300 milion in bonds.

Globe last Thursday said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange that it would raise its planned P2.7-billion bond offering to P3 billion following an overwhelming reception by prospective investors.

The company is set to refinance some of its existing loans through a $100-million facility to be finalized within the year. This will include the proposed P2.7-billion bond offering.

Also within the year, the Ayala-led firm will be seeking a new $150-million loan to finance part of its $350-million capital expenditure requirement for the year.

Globe chief finance officer Delfin Gonzalez Jr. said in an earlier interview that the company was currently working on the loan proposal.

The new loan would likely have a maturity of 5 to 7 years and an interest rate of 3 to 3.5 percent.

Stocks end slightly up

STOCKS ended marginally higher yesterday, but shares in the listed Philippine Stock Exchange plunged on news it will sell new shares to private investors at a huge discount to its current price, traders said.

PSE shares tumbled 34.6 percent, losing P64 to end at P121, after the bourse announced details of the share sale on Thursday.

It said will sell 5.265 million of its shares to five major investors for P629 million—an average price of P119.50 each compared to the exchange's last traded price on Tuesday of P185.

"It's due to the sale of new shares at an unreasonable huge discount to market price and to valuations of other traded exchanges in the region," said Joey Roxas, president of Eagle Equities Inc.

The 33-share main index edged up 1.49 points or 0.1 percent to 1,480.77 points, accumulating a gain of 2.66 percent so far this year.

Traders said most investors stayed on the sidelines yesterday after the peso fell to the 56.10 to a dollar in morning trade, near its record low of 56.22 hit at the end of January, due to political uncertainty ahead of the May 10 elections.

But some firms still managed to attract buyers.

Pilipino Telephone Corp., a unit of phone leader PLDT, surged 18 percent or 24 centavos to P1.58 on persistent rumors it would merge with PLDT's other mobile unit Smart Communications.

Turnover jumped 68 percent to P565.73 million from P335.98 million on Thursday. *Reuters*

CURRENCIES

February 13, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.781067	1.000000	55.950000
Japan	Yen	0.007412	0.009489	0.530900
United Kingdom	Pound	1.478325	1.892700	105.896600
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100533	0.126712	7.201400
Switzerland	Franc	0.634601	0.812480	45.458300
Canada	Dollar	0.592121	0.758093	42.415300
Singapore	Dollar	0.466615	0.597407	33.424900
Australia	Dollar	0.615692	0.788271	44.103800
Bahrain	Dinar	2.071850	2.652590	148.412400
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.208290	0.266674	14.920400
Brunei	Dollar	0.465225	0.595628	33.325400
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000093	0.000119	0.006700
Thailand	Baht	0.020130	0.025773	1.442000
UAE	Dirham	0.212663	0.272272	15.233600
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.280300	71.632800
Argentina	Peso	0.267141	0.342021	19.136100
Brazil	Real	0.269520	0.345066	19.306400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134225	0.171848	9.614900
India	Rupee	0.017273	0.022114	1.237300
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.205571	0.263193	14.725600
Mexico	New Peso	0.071318	0.091308	5.108700
New Zealand	Dollar	0.545590	0.698519	39.082100
Norway	Kroner	0.113042	0.144728	8.097500
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013679	0.017513	0.979900
South Africa	Rand	0.117909	0.150959	8.446200
Korea	Won	0.000673	0.000862	0.048200
Sweden	Kroner	0.109332	0.139978	7.831800
Syria	Pound	0.015166	0.019417	1.086400
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023619	0.030239	1.691900
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000408	0.000522	0.029200

Alaska posts 14% growth in profit

ALASKA Milk Corp. last year posted a 14-percent growth in net profit to P499 million from P439 million the previous year, driven by strong sales volume across all its product lines.

Revenues likewise grew 9 percent to P4.34 billion in 2003 from P3.97 billion in 2002. Operating income stood at P612 million, up 12.5 percent from P544 million in 2002.

The company's liquid milk line, both classic and value categories, posted a 10-percent increase in sales volume, fueled by the sales of its recently launched Evaporada brand and the Alaska sweetened condensed filled milk.

Its powdered milk business also continued to show growth, but at a rate slower than the company's liquid milk brands. The Alaska Hi-Cal brand launched last year helped buoy powdered milk sales in a contracting market.

Alaska maintained the No. 2 position in the powdered milk segment, with market share continuing to grow.

UHT milk, or fresh milk processed with a technology called ultra high temperature (UHT), generated a 10-percent increase in sales volume despite a series of price increases implemented last year. *Abigail L. Ho*

DISCLOSURES

METRO Alliance Holdings and Equities Corp. clarified that it is the lead company in the project to acquire the secured debt papers and other debts of Bataan Polyethylene Corp. The corporation also designated Polymax Worldwide Ltd. As the acquisition vehicle in the purchase of the debt papers.

* * *

CADP Group of Corp. disclosed that the SEC through its Corporate Registration and Monitoring Department has approved the spin-off of the sugar business of the company to Central Azucarera de la Carlota Inc. (formerly Jade Orient Sugar Corp.), a wholly-owned subsidiary.

* * *

ALASKA Milk Corp. announced an unaudited net income of P499 million in 2003.

* * *

THE BOARD of Wise Holdings Inc. approved the appointment of Alba Romeo & Co., CPAs to replace E.S. Pasamba & Co., CPAs. The new auditors will complete the corporation's financial statements for 2003.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Bank of Communications clarified that the reported P3 to P4 billion amount the bank would be getting from the sale of its bad assets is merely an estimate.

* * *

ASIAN Terminals Inc. announced the resignation of John Buckley as director effective Feb 12. The board elected Jeremy J.L. Rickcord as director replacing Buckley. The board also postponed the annual stockholders meeting on April 22 to April 29.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Savings Bank confirmed that the bank is expecting its net income to grow by 20 percent in 2004 from the reported P403.6 million in unaudited net income in 2003. ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research***

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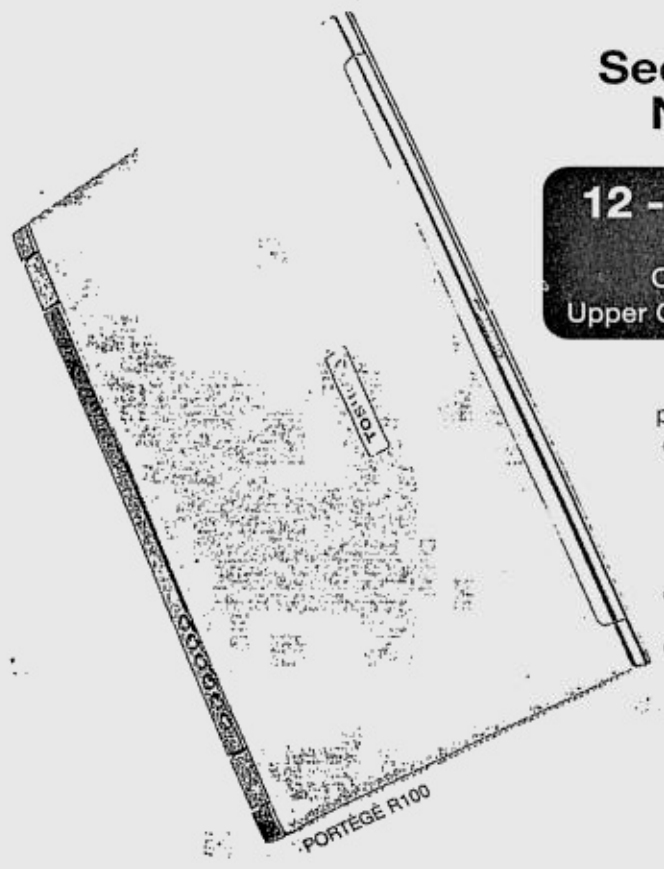

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

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MEASLES IMMUNIZATION DRIVE

DOH targets 18.3-M Filipino kids

By Charles E. Buban

THREE million, seven hundred thousand children, 14.6 million more to go. According to the Department of Health, this was the figure achieved during the first week of February under the Ligtas Tigdas 2004 campaign which aims to vaccinate 18.3 million Filipino children against measles by Feb. 29.

"The number of susceptible children accumulates each year and the only way to prevent a measles outbreak is to ensure vaccination and protection of all children and eliminate the pool of susceptibles," said Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit during his visit to Davao City last week.

Dayrit was in Davao to lead the Mindanao leg of the campaign.

Of all the vaccine-preventable diseases, measles remains the leading killer of children, according to the World Health Organization.

Worldwide, the disease affects over 30 million children and claims the lives of almost 75,000 each year, more than half of them in Africa.

BakunaDoors

This month, BakunaDoors, or teams of doctors, nurses and midwives, will go door to door, visiting homes, schools, health centers and even gyms to immunize children at high risk of getting measles. These are children born between Feb. 1, 1996 and May 1, 2003 (9 months to less than 8 years).

Vitamin A capsules will also be given to children between 9 months and 5 years of age.

"The once-a-year Ligtas Tigdas is done in support of the routine vaccination given on a regular basis at the health centers. This is done to rapidly reduce the number of children at risk of getting measles," said Dayrit whose department aims to eliminate measles in the country by 2008.

$7.8-M grant

The Ligtas Tigdas 2004 is actually a follow-up campaign to the first Ligtas Tigdas campaign in 1998.

For this follow-up campaign, the Japanese government extended a grant amounting to $7.8 million (P436 million) for its implementation. The grant was used to purchase immunization supplies including 2.5 million vials of measles vaccine, 21.8 million pieces of auto-disabled needles and syringes, 2.7 million pieces of mixing needles and syringes and 270,000 pieces of safety boxes for used needles and syringes.

OUCH! Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit vaccinates a child during the Feb. 9 Mindanao launch of Ligtas Tigdas 2004 in Davao City.
BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

The Ligtas Tigdas 2004 is one of the components of the Philippine Measles Elimination Campaign, which also involves continuing routine vaccination of infants at 9 months old after Ligtas Tigdas 2004, the catch-up mass vaccination in 1998, continuing disease surveillance, and follow-up campaign (like Ligtas Tigdas 2004) which may have to be repeated every four or five years.

Fewer cases each year

Measles is a highly contagious disease caused by a virus. It affects mostly children and can be easily and very rapidly transmitted through air or direct contact.

According to the DOH, complications from the disease claimed the lives of about 4,000 children and infected more than 80,000 each year in the 1980s.

When the immunization drive was intensified in the 1990s, the figures were reduced to 2,500 deaths and 50,000 infections annually.

At present, about 400 to 1,000 children still die from complications of the disease and about 30,000 are infected each year.

Complications

Children who suffer from measles may experience complications including pneumonia, encephalitis, blindness, deafness, ear infection, diarrhea and dehydration.

"Some of these complications are life-threatening, which is why eliminating measles has always been among the department's priorities," said Dayrit.

A child with measles usually has blotchy rashes all over the body for three days or more. The child also has fever and at least any one of the following: cough, runny nose or reddish eyes.

There is yet no cure for measles and only immunization can protect children against it.

Math in Middle Earth

(First of two parts)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

AS A VALENTINE'S Day gift to myself, I will discuss a topic close to my heart: Tolkien's epic "Lord of the Rings."

No, I will not write yet another glowing review. Suffice it to say that if Peter Jackson's movie does not win an Oscar, then the Academy's credibility is shot. As for the book, aside from writing beautifully about pathos and heroism, Tolkien also painstakingly researched every detail, including number systems, calendars and math notations.

Tolkien studied different historical numerical systems—Egyptian, Babylonian, Hindu-Arabic—and used them as bases for his work, including the Elvish system, which we look at now.

The following discussion draws heavily from Michael Martinez's April 2001 article, "Notinole from Babylon to Middle-Earth," the entirety of which can be found online. (Thank you Donna Batongbacal for calling my attention to this.)

Tengwar number systems

Elvish numerals (mentioning a date) appear in Aragorn's letter to Sam, and in another book, Tolkien includes numerals twice. But much research on tengwar number systems is based on a less popular work, "The Lost Road and Other Writings."

Did the elves use a base-10 (like ours) or base-12 (like the Babylonians) number system? Many linguists, such as the noted scholar Helge Fauskanger, believe that the Eldar used the latter.

For one, Tolkien uses the "yen" (long year) to represent a 144-solar-year period. Also, the first elves totaled 144, and Bilbo (if you remember) made sure to invite one gross of relatives to his birthday party.

But Martinez argues that likewise we use a 12-month calendar and retain the word "gross" for 144, but we still count in base 10.

Tolkien was also influenced by Roman numerals. In Aragorn's letter there are two years: 6341 and 61. Commentators note that these numbers are in reverse order from our system, so they actually denote 1436 and 16, which means that Aragorn wrote to Sam in the Fourth Age 16, Shire Reckoning 1436.

Reversal of numerals

What is the reason behind this reversal of numerals? Tolkien most likely knew that the ancient Romans did not have a term for zero, and to surmount such difficulties he had to denote numbers, especially big ones, by certain figure positions.

Remember our Roman numerals in class? Fifty is represented by L, a hundred by C (from *centuria*, interestingly, a centurion commands 100 guards, or a century). One thousand is M (from *mille*). Now big numbers depend on the position of these letters. For instance, MC is equal to 1,100 but CM is merely 900.

The Babylonians did create zero (another story in itself), which started out as a place holder. Our modern Arabic system came from India, which also developed zero, and arithmetic, besides.

These systems were actually quite cumbersome. Martinez says: "The ancient Egyptians read numbers from right to left, but they also stacked digits within a number. And they only used seven symbols to manipulate their decimal system.

"The Babylonians, on the other hand, had 59 characters for their sexagesimal (base 60) system. But those characters were constructed from (surprise!) two symbols. Just like the Eldarin tengwar numerals (not including the zero).

Babylonian system

"The Babylonian system, however, was not as elegant as the Eldarin system. The Babylonians had to repeat the first symbol (which resembled a 'Y' with a closed top) up to nine times to denote 1 through 9. Ten was denoted by a '<'-like symbol with a curve inside the angle (yes, the Babylonians understood trigonometry many centuries before Pythagoras was born).

"The 'ten' symbol was prefixed to the 'ones' symbol in up to five multiples. These composite symbols were then used as 59 unique digits. Numbers were constructed from left to right."

E-mail the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.

Web-based advice service on bird flu

THE RAPID spread of Avian influenza A (H5N1), commonly known as bird flu, across many Asian countries is causing great concern. It is known to have been responsible for the loss of human life as well as infecting and killing poultry populations.

To help those who may be affected by this situation, International SOS has launched a new website on avian flu that will give fast access to up-to-date information, advice and recommendations. The guide is available, free to all on the company's website, www.internationalsos.com.

The site is updated daily by International SOS medical directors, using the knowledge and expertise of its own doctors and information from the World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the health authorities in the affected countries.

H5N1 has caused a small number of deaths in Vietnam and Thailand. So far, it appears that human cases are limited to persons associated with poultry and live animal markets. To date, no human-to-human spread has been documented.

There appears to be little risk for travelers provided that appropriate precautionary steps are taken. International SOS is advising members to avoid live animal markets and poultry farms in affected countries and to always maintain high levels of personal hygiene.

It is safe to eat well-cooked poultry and eggs.

In addition to the website, International SOS doctors are always available through the company's network of 29 Alarm Centers to provide advice on a one-to-one basis.

International SOS is the world's leading provider of global medical and security assistance to people traveling and working internationally. Services range from 24-hour medical advice and referrals to qualified doctors and hospitals to provision of emergency medical and security evacuations when there is a critical illness or accident or civil unrest.

Love is

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

IF I REMEMBER my medieval literature class correctly, we have to blame the notion of romantic love on the French. During the early Middle Ages, troubadours started singing about chivalrous knights who vowed undying love if their ladies gave them a token of their affection, such as a handkerchief or ribbon.

But what exactly is romantic love? Is it chocolates and roses and candlelight dinners on one specific day of the year? Science suggests that the answer is no.

In 1999, Marraziti et al. from the University of Pisa found that the brain chemistry of people with obsessive compulsive disorder is very similar to that of those in the early stages of a relationship. A more recent study suggests that this notion may not be that far from the truth.

You light up my brain

During last year's Society for Neuroscience meeting, one of the most popular presentations was done by psychologist Arthur Aron of the State University of New York at Stony Brook, neuroscientist Lucy Brown of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and anthropologist Helen Fisher of Rutger University.

They looked at 17 college students who claimed to have found "The One" within the past 2-17 months and were "truly, madly, [and] deeply" in love with them. (That last wasn't a quote from the findings but the description is apt.)

Functional magnetic resonance images (fMRIs) were taken as the study participants looked at photos of their significant others (SOs), which were mixed in with photos of someone whose face they recognized but to whom they felt no emotional ties.

The scans revealed that whenever a participant saw his/her SO's face, the caudate nucleus and ventral tegmental area—the portions of the brain associated with reward and motivation—lit up.

"These brain areas are rich in dopamine....[which] produce energy, focused attention on novel stimuli—some of the core feelings of romantic love," Dr. Brown said of the study's results.

Are people actually looking at their SOs and triumphantly thinking, "She/He's mine!" during the first few months of a relationship?

"We believe romantic love is a developed form of one of three primary brain networks that evolved to direct mammalian reproduction," Dr. Fisher explained. "Attraction...evolved to enable individuals to pursue preferred mating partners..., [and] the brain circuitry for male-female attachment evolved to enable individuals to remain with a mate long enough to complete species-specific duties."

Mere façade for procreation

In other words, she's saying that we fall in love so that we can have children who will keep the family name alive in the next generation, which is why our brains think of SOs as both reward ("I won! I got him/her!") and motivation ("I'm going to have children with him/her!").

The idea that love is just a façade for procreation isn't very romantic, but then again during the Middle Ages marriages were arranged so that families could acquire wealth or power. Love then was defined as something husbands and wives found out of the marriage bed with other people.

And then poets like Chrétien de Troyes showed people they could fall in love with their spouses, which brings us to meeting the SO's emotional needs as well as the physical.

Fisher et al. cited a study done four years ago by University of London neurologists Andreas Bartels and Semir Zeki, who studied 17 people who claimed to be "truly, deeply and madly in love" (this time it's a quote from the paper) with their SOs and had been with them for an average of just over two years.

As with the study of Fisher et al., fMRIs taken of the participants as they looked at photos of their SOs and other people revealed that the insula and anterior cingulate—portions of the brain associated with emotions—were activated.

This suggests that in long-term relationships, a person's brain stops seeing the SO as a prize and starts associating emotions with him/her, which is more in tune with the stereotypical notion of romantic love.

Love a fundamental drive

In her book "Why We Love: The Nature and Chemistry of Romantic Love," Dr. Fisher says "romantic love is a need; it is a fundamental human drive."

Granted it's a drive toward enlarging the family tree, but the journey can be quite pleasant, as evidenced by the fact that people keep falling in love and getting married.

Love expressed in scientific terms may not be as pleasing to the senses as poetry, but it can't deny the fact that we seek emotional attachments. So thank the French for *l'amour*, and go have fun tonight.

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

Pill available for balding men

By Tessa R. Salazar

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Hair loss is a result of many factors. It may indicate iron deficiency or it could be physiologic. Once the cause is identified, doctors usually treat baldness with oral or topical medications.

The most common type of hair loss is male pattern hair loss, or MPHL (androgenetic alopecia). MPHL is identified in 50 percent of men at some point in their lives.

MPHL occurs in men with an inherited sensitivity to the effects of androgens on scalp hair. The culprit behind MPHL is dihydrotestosterone (DHT) which is believed to shorten the growth phase of the hair cycle, causing miniaturization of the follicles, and producing progressively finer hairs. DHT is regulated by an enzyme called 5-alpha reductase.

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Fortunately, there are courses of action available to save your hair from the clutches of MPHL.

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70-80% success rate

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The maker of finasteride encourages treatment at the earliest stage possible. It warns that once hair roots become atrophied, the condition becomes permanent and the effectivity of the treatment is reduced.

Compared to Minoxidil

In comparison, Minoxidil has a 40 percent success rate, Dimayuga said. "But the problem is that the hair you grow is very fine, baby hair, compared to finasteride which grows back thick, coarse hair."

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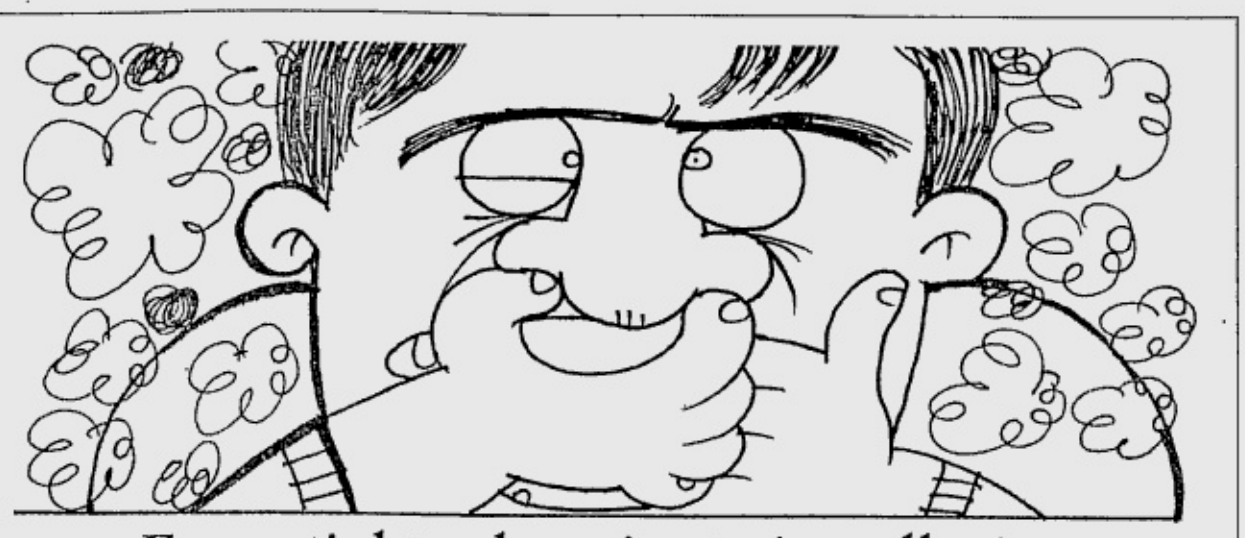

Essential tool against air pollution

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Various government agencies have been harping about their efforts at controlling air pollution because of its health and environmental hazards. One gets to wonder though how one can effectively control it without any accurate way of monitoring it.

To my knowledge, no long-term, continuous monitoring programs are being managed by the government to assess the types and levels of pollutants in the air, to assess trends as air quality degrades, or to provide any sort of health warnings during specific months. There is, however, enough data to confirm that the situation poses a serious health risk and is getting worse.

Measuring pollutants

The Asian Development Bank-financed Metro Manila Air Quality Improvement project clearly demonstrates that the levels of pollutants in the air are way above acceptable levels. The 1997 ADB data were generated from eight air quality monitoring stations in some of the most polluted and traffic-heavy intersections in Metro Manila.

The OAS data, from January and February 2001, were based on spot readings in households in selected residential subdivisions.

Pollutants measured include PM-10 (particulate matter of 10 microns in diameter or smaller), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), nitrogen oxide (NO_2) and ozone (O_3). Lead measurements were not carried out because there were no available filters.

The study's initial results yielded alarmingly high measurements such that immediate action must be taken to validate the findings and initiate remedial action.

In summary, PM-10 and by inference, PM-2.5, generally, and in some locations very significantly, exceeded US, WHO and Philippine air quality standards. Outdoor air quality was significantly better in areas outside Metro Manila, such as Antipolo and Laguna.

Hazardous levels

The residential PM-10 readings are worth seriously noting:

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Such was the advice of heart experts during the recent joint annual convention of the Philippine Society of Hypertension and Philippine Lipid Society when they discussed the role of the statin class of drugs in treating cholesterol problems and other high-risk conditions which make patients prone to heart attacks and strokes.

It was explained that the atherosclerotic process which clogs arteries can be retarded but not cured or reversed effectively. Atherosclerosis is a continuous, progressive and long-lasting process which requires life-long treatment.

Statins are versatile drugs that have the ability to prevent inflammation and blood clotting, which are important factors in the atherosclerotic process.

The heart experts, however, emphasized lifestyle change as an important mainstay in treatment. There may be a genetic predisposition to the disease, but a major factor implicated in CVD development is the individual's lifestyle and diet.

When lifestyle modification is not sufficient for those with cholesterol problems, doctors prescribe cholesterol-lowering drug such as statins.

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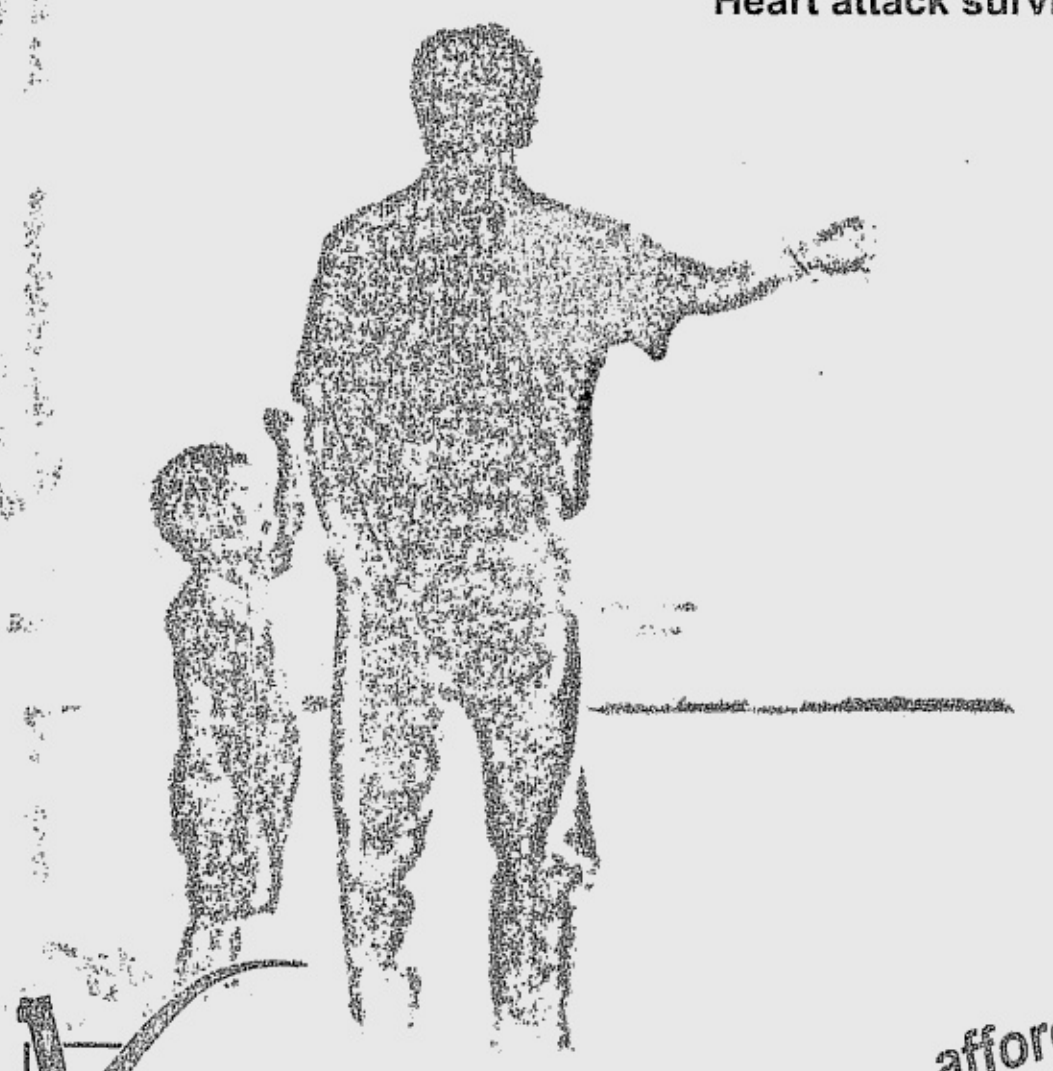

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Northwoods w/ Golfcourse Bulacan 20%DP 80%BAL Flor 0920-9072718

VARIED AREAS

★BAGUIO LOT
2800 sqm near Bakakeng Marcos Hi-way adj Richview Fil-Estate F1900/sqm Only
★CLEVELAND TOWER
Asia World City 360 sqm Unit Face Manila Bay Best View of Sunset P12M Only
★PACIFIC PLAZA
Ayala Ave Makati FA 285sqm Nice Renov & Design P22M Sale or P130T/mo Rent Call Owners 805-7215 Cel. No. 0919-6567065 /0919-8566535 Reasonable Offer is Ok.

HOUSE & LOT

KALOOCAN

CAMARIN CAL CITY LA 240m² FA 104m² 2Bdrms 1T&B P1.2M Vic / Gle 8903461 loc 27

LAS PINAS

LAS PINAS/BACOOR
2-4 BRS. 1-3 T&B, 2Storey
P5,000 to Reserve/No loan req't
8721340/8723969

MANILA

NEAR LA SALLE
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.125M 8903461 loc 34

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.6M 9487112

PARANAQUE

4-5BR Nr. Mkti/Airport • 822-9993 • 0922-8088800 •

PASIG

DE CASTRO SUBD 2 Stry P1.8M LA 321m² FA 271m² 6Bdrms 2T&B Vic 8903461 loc 27

QUEZON CITY

Kamias LA300/m² P15T Hse Free w/ 3BR3TB Grg 9220313

P381,000/unit condo 2Kms fr. SM Fairview Lipat Agad/Pag-ibig 8179650 / 9750 / 0919-2302120

PROJ.6 BNEW 9263307

RUSH SALE !!!
NEGOTIABLE
SAMAR AVE PROPERTY
4BR3TB 375m² 9.5M Bunglow
Tita 09194014983 /9511624

St. Ignatius Vill 912-1506

BATANGAS

AYALA PROPERTY AT STO TOMAS BATANGAS 364 SQM. HOUSE N LOT 2.5M NEG 500T DP BAL 2 YRS TO PAY W/O INT 0918-9424538

CAVITE

BACOOR CAVITE
TOWN & COUNTRY WEST
P1.1M-P3M RFO
735-0720 , 735-0971

H&L 4BR 1TB 1.3M 163SQM MOLINO CAVITE (02)5640525

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

One BEATRIZ Tower
1st Class COMM'L-OFFICE RESI. CONDO.
AURORA / LAUAN ST., PROJ. 3, Q.C.
READY FOR OCCUPANCY
FOR SALE OR LEASE
Nr. ATENEO • UP • MIRIAM • KOSTKA • PSBA • NCBA
1ST CLASS AMENITIES
R-Top S.Pool, Gym, Sauna, Etc.
W/ X'LENT VIEW 360°
MOVE-IN @ 10% DP
TO SEE... IS TO BELIEVE
OPEN until 8 p.m. daily
ROOMS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR RENT (DAILY/WEEKLY/MONTHLY) CALL
MASTER C RE-DE, INC.
TEL# 913-5223/921-4883
TEL# 922-4464/913-7632

HOUSE & LOT

LAGUNA

84 Sqm LA 36Sqm FA 2BR 1T&B Binan P600T Neg 09163779512 09183039585

BELAIR No D/P House&Lot 10-25%disc Free PA Ins •0918-7099856/751-2388•

LAGUNA BEL-AIR LA 132m² 3Bdrms 2T&B FA84m² P1.85M Vic 8903461 loc 27/25

METROVILLE SUBD LA 122m² 2Bdrms 1T&B FA 61.28m² P1.2M Vic 8903461 loc 27

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES 3Stry FA210m² LA 78m² P1.9M Vic 8903461 loc 27/25

CONDO/TWNHSE

P1.5M Resort-Type condo along Ortigas, near C-5 2BR, dressed unit. RFO! In-House, Bank, PAG-IBIG Josie (0927)3724681

MAKATI

1.6M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8313226

MKT NR AYALA
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2tb/grge P3.435M 8903461 loc 34

RUSH SALE. MAKATI CONDO 533-9225 • 0917-8340519

RUSH SALE!!!!
NEGOTIABLE
MAKATI CONDO
55m² with 1BR / Kitchen/T&B Tita 09194014983 /9511624

MANILA

Nr UST 250sq.m 634-1212

MANDALUYONG

1.8M, BNew, 45sqm w/Prkng
2.3M, BNew, Cash or Term
Very Nice • 0919-2189617

PASIG

NO Downpayment
2Storey Condo P7,528.72/mo.
www.bahaypinoycondo.com RYAN 0919-5729204 • 0927-3842797

QUEZON CITY

C. BENITEZ 3STRY 3BR 3TB furn 6873372 0917-8102903

CUBAO 1.4M 10% DP 9132224

RUSH 2BR CUBAO 9120679

Rush very cheap CONDO UNITS
36sqm Tomas Morato 1.6M
55sqm Scout Borromeo 1.6M
72sqm Timog Avenue 2.1M
Call 09173281724

LOT

KALOOCAN

RAINBOW VILLAGE 5 LA 216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

QUEZON CITY

Ayala Hillside Estates
ALSO AYALA HEIGHTS, QC
MRS. GASTON
AYALA LAND BROKER
TEL: 931-2938 • 931-2948
E-mail: jo_gaston@yahoo.com

PARANAQUE

4th Estate Sn Antonio Sucat Pque 30m² 3600T Cristy 5414916; 8256443

PASIG

BARGAIN RUSH SALE!
314sqm, Only P14T per sqm Kapayapaan Cor Mejia St. Kawilihan Village Pasig 0917-8417590 • 671-2188

METROVILLE SUBD LA 333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

V. Verde 5 3br 634-1212

QUEZON CITY

Nrt Susana 230m² 412-1825

VILLA ESPANA LA 108.50m² P12,000/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

RIZAL

Binangonan 7000m² 660-9223

OTHER AREAS

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA 240m² P3,125/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

VILLA LIGAYA LA 149m² & 134m² P3,534/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BAGUIO

Takal Road 6200m² 660-9223

BATANGAS

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA 613m² P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

RUSH SALE BEACH LOT in Nasugbu • 0917-8340519

TAAL BTGS nr Diversion Rd 6794m² P185.50/m² Vic 8903461

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000 m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

TOWN & COUNTRY LA 180m² P2,900/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA 128m² P2,900/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

Silang Cavite 240m² P800T Call 0918-9634252

ST. CHARBEL DASMA LA 371m² P2,650/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m² LA 240m² Vic 8903461 loc 25 / 27

FARM/RSHPEV/ RAWLANDS

★SUBIC 48has@200/m² Direct Buyer Only 0920-9112910

LAGUNDI MORONG RIZAL 8420M² 6454298 6455918

RUSH SALE POULTRY FARM in Teresa • 0917-8340519

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BATANGAS

TAAL BTGS nr Diversion Rd 6794m² P185.50/m² Vic 8903461

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

FACTORY/WHSE

ARANETA VILLAGE 2WAREHOUSE 2,080 m² P18M NEAR MONUMENTO CALOOCAN VACANT LOT 6 AVE 1,350 M² P20,000/M² TEL 7342503-04 (MON. - SAT.)

CLUB SHARE & MEMBERSHIP

Fontana "C" No Arrears
Ana 6364700 • 0918-9910400

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

QUEZON CITY

ONE BURGUNDY PLAZA FRT ATENEO Q.C> 3 UNITS 103, 75 & 50m² Tel 7313035 9289541

HOUSE

MAKATI

1136 Tanay nr City Hall 3 car driveway 3BR 2TB & garden 25T/mo. long term 2 serv qts 831-8691/831-1683

MANDALUYONG

LARGE HOUSE & GARDEN in Mandaluyong 0917-8340519

MARIKINA

3BR 1TB w/Garg P8/mo T426-4569

PASIG

3BR KAP 0919-2064003

QUEZON CITY

W.Plains, VVerde 9114460

CONDO/TWNHSE

KALOOCAN

NEW 1BR•2BR COM'L CLINIC•OFFICE•P6.5Tup #162 P. Jacinto cor. #39 Biglang Awa Caloocan 323-0175

MAKATI

Mkt Studio P8.5 1-2br P10T Free Pkg No Due w/Tel 8979417

NEW STUDIO / Comi / 2BR 6.5Tup 1672 Dian St. Mkti 843-9416•0918 9390355 Rose

MANILA

2BR Condo Hamstead Grden V. Mapa Ext. ELLER 2954536

Accessible 2 Makati/Taft Paco 1&2BR 7T Up 589-3230

Nr Mkti 2BR P10T/Mo. 8982630 / 5637395 / 09209219118

MANDALUYONG

PARAGON PLAZA PENTHOUSE Brand new 234sm w/ 2-parking 3BR.5TB T5277616 Vicky.Rosa

PASAY

1BR.2BR.STUDIO P7.5T UP 1836 Leveriza, Pasay Tel. 4004336

PASIG

RIVERSIDE TOWNHOMES NEAR EVER GOTESCO-PASIG Tel 09178356891;4213785/86

Twnhse VV5 4BDRM 5CR w/2GRGE Tel. 634-3965

QUEZON CITY

61sm COMMERCIAL SPACE 14T 3BR 2T&B 108sm w/ parking 12T Valencia cor Castilla Q.C. 3727824/ 09175325838 Rowena

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

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w/ option to BUY!
Ideal for Spa, Gym, Tutorial, Boutique & Learning Centers,
CALL 723-2498
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PYP MANSION II
78 L Santos Diaz St., QC

APARTMENT

MAKATI

1BR w/ Aircon, Reef 8992148

MANILA

2BR 864 Benny St. Sampaloc nr UDMC P9T 941-3550

2BR Apart@7,500/mo. Vangie 0920-5112950 Ofc 7145342/46 Res 9329766

Apt 7841746/6682108

Nr UST 2BR 10T 373-0587

PARANAQUE

Merville Pque 4BR 2Car Grge Mon-Sat 913-7267 / 913-7270

QUEZON CITY

1BR w/ T&B Grg, Free H2° Proj. 8 QC Call 927-2640

CUBAO 8th Av 3br2lb 9114510

CUBAO P3.8 Ladys 9124428

STD APT SFDM, QC 373-02-08

FOR LEASE

•FOR LEASE•
Jupiter St. Flr Area 148sqm
Call Myrna 8931043

ROCKWELL 2BDR 2Pkng MIYA 09209218726 / 8864168

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

NR ROOSEVELT QC JEROME 3716449 / 09177935426

ROOM & BOARD

2 Ldys no dep 4T 4154327

Mkt nr Ayala Free Utlty 8906331

MLA, nr UST P120 7118679

Prj3 lady P3T studio 9137513

BEDSPACE

CITYLAND ULTRA 688-8582

BUSINESS RENTAL

AYALA AVE 8181696/7586

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3577523/24

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT , H/L BUSINESS PERSONAL Gigie Ernie 8903461 loc 25/23

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

MALATE MLA 526-8048/49

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

NR SM MARILAO 134m² 2BR 1TB w/garage P1.2M 9133329 Evelyn Rent 3T/mo

QUEZON CITY

Th nr St Lukes 09185545450

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

98CRV AT Silver 70km P580T Casa-Maintained Vicky 6368198 6582912

CIVIC 2000 VTI A/T Casa-Maintained P400T 0917-5215452 931-2294

Honda Civic '95 715-5176

NISSAN

Cefiro 2003 2Tkm P1.1M Blk 722-6415 • 0927-3440597

TOYOTA

Hilux Surf 4WD 1998 A/T Sunroof Fresh (In&Out) VG Con 390T neg • 995-0632

VOLVO

FOR SALE! VOLVO S70 '99 Model, Owner driven, Very good condition! P800T Nego. Call 7594974 Marylin

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Land Cruiser Surf Delica Space Gear Serena Safari Terrano MV Previa Town-Hi Ace Vanette Elf Canter etc A1 w/warranty T-in 9120647 09178342020

PARTS & ACCESSORIES

•RUST PROOF•
in minutes without chemicals for new-old car, van, etc.
•POSADAS 9623532•

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

1T/Hiace 9136710/4333682

A B C CARS/VANS
NEW MODELS W OR W O DRIVER
MLA HO 536-8822 • 303-9789
Q.C. BR. 426-2278 • 426-4084

★Vans Coaster Bus 422-9296

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

1.5% 1HR CAR LOAN3743803

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% CAR LOAN 6567685

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0357

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% OR CR ONLY 0917-8361771

2% w/o Taking Car 7252780

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8956630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

CAR BUSNES OFW 524-3197

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

APPLIANCES

Samsung 43" Proj. P65000 New 722-6415 • 0927-3440597

AUDIO/ VIDEO

Aowa Home&Ent Sys Cmplete Bnew 0917-8214935

BILLIARDS

Sale/Rental/Servce 8014494

BUY/SELL

EDUC PLAN 0918-3972820

EDUCATION PLANS 7800106

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

FOR SALE: CARLYLE SEMI- HERMETIC COMPRESSORS Specs: Carlyle 06EF275 (w/o Unloader) 230 VAC / 460 VAC, 6 cylinder 30HP (Nominal), 75.0 CFM @ 1750 RPM, R-22 As Is Where Is Contact: Engr. Doming Marquez 8364921 8384435

GARAGE SALE

EVERYTHING MUST GO!
Feb. 14&15. Bella Vista Exec Hills Subd., Taytay Rizal nr Rustn Xpres 8231710 Marijo

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New:TERMS-7213124

PETS

CHOW' CHAMPLINE 8247734

LonghairedGuineaPig5277616 Less50% on boar 20% on sow

MINPINS-DACSHUND9529697

WANTED TO BUY

BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
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Repair / Polish Any watch
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7220433 • 4123543

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

CY LOPEZ PAWNSHOP INC.
CAEG Bldg. #7611 Dela Rosa St.,Makati City #602 JP Rizal St. Makati City #15 Gen. Santos Ave. lower Bicutan Taguig Real St. Almanza Uno Las Pinas City will hold an Auction Sale on February 21 2004 at 9:00am including all items pawned up to September 2003. V. Zamora Jr. lic. Auctioneer
(PDI-Feb. 14,2004)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that all BPI-Quezon Ave Espana branch Accts & Parcels of Land with TCT Nos. N-209473 & N-10804 of ADELINA G. MAYUGA has been self-adjudicated as per Doc 58, Page 52, Book IX, Series of 2003 of Notarial Public Manuel L. Hontanos-Bohol.
(PDI Feb. 14, 21, & 28, 2004)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MA. LINA ABELAR JAVIER who died intestate on April 12, 2003 without any issue was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. # 14; Page # 87; Book # 16; Series of 2004 before Notary Public Patria G. Abella of the City of Manila
PDI-Jan. 31, Feb. 7 & 14, 2004

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that PCI Leasing & Finance, Inc. Stock Cert. #15120A under the name of Roque S. Lumantas was lost. If no contest is received new certificate will be issued.(PDI-Jan. 31, Feb. 07 & 14, 2004)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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EXTRA INCOME
0919-6912701

NEW 4 STOREY DORMITORY BLDG UNIVERSITY BELT AREA SAMPALOC MANILA 936-1426 / 937-2622

RETIRE 2YRS 09169051567

RTW factory price 3738821

SINGAPOREAN looking for partners to develop new industry with patented technology 0927-4936266

Wanting to earn xtra 75-200T per month be consumer franchisee just like me call 8076619 09178377531 Resh

Work By Phone, Earn Up 2 P30T/month! Female, 28&up! 892-7828

DIRECT SALE

JEWELRY NO CAPITAL CONSIGN TRMS MST B EMPLOYD 984-2865

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Need Kitchen Staff and Rider Apply at # 25 Matalino St., Teacher's Village, Diliman, QC #9241040 Look for Al or Cris

WANTED DRIVER, HELPER w/ NBI Tel. 895-0775

FEMALE

Female GS/P.E. Teachers Novaliches Area • 930-9262

★ EXEC ASST ★
20-22 yrs Grad. For Science Foreign Service HDR & Asso AOA Venosa I 120 Amoranto St. Legaspi Village Makati

MALE/FEMALE

FREE CAREGIVER TRAINING PROGRAM W/CERTIFICATE 302-6893 338-7407 4043528

MKTG STF 09206115766 ABA

Mking O/c Asst 0920-8662187

OFC MKTG PERSONEL
Coll/Grad/Lvl (18-45)w/w/o exp 995-7774 / 438-9340 Ms.Hana

URGENT!!!
Food/Beverage Operations Manager /Cashier/Cook Exp Only 4 Eastmoco City Resto Apply at Sarabia SM Mega B 3/F Tel 633-1645/634-8013

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722-1155

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
CREMATORY SERVICES
ON CALL 24 HOURS A DAY
143 G. Araneta Avenue corner Kalayaan Street, Quezon City
Telephone Nos.: 749-3806 to 11 • 712-3001 • 743-6502
743-6505 • 743-6508 • Fax No.: 712-2782

104 years

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig
(632) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 109/112
Sales@heritagepark.com.ph
Mortuary and Crematory opening soon!

EDILBERTO LIBREA RODRIGUEZ

Executive Vice President of Toyota Balintawak, Inc. and Toyota Otis, Inc.

Peacefully joined our Lord on the 12th day of February 2004, 12:05 a.m. at the age of 61.

His loving wife **Maryann**; children **Vince**, **Raffy** and **Sachie**; and grandson **Adrian**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Mt. Carmel Chapel, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be held on Sunday, February 15, 2004 at the Manila Memorial Park Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Mt. Carmel Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, please send your donations to Hospicio de San Jose.

In Remembrance of the First Death Anniversary

JESUS SINGIAN LAZATIN

of San Fernando, Pampanga

who passed away on February 17, 2003

Holy Mass will be offered on Sunday, February 15, 2004 at 5 p.m. in family resthouse in Villa del Sol, San Fernando, Pampanga.

Holy Masses will be offered on Tuesday, February 17, at the following churches:

Metropolitan Cathedral of San Fernando, Consunji St., City of San Fernando, Pampanga . all day
St. Augustine Parish, San Agustin, City of San Fernando, Pampanga ..... 6:30 a.m.
Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Dolores, City of San Fernando, Pampanga ..... 6:00 a.m.
Sto. Niño Parish, Sto. Niño, City of San Fernando, Pampanga ..... 6:30 a.m.
Sacred Heart Parish, Telabastagan, City of San Fernando, Pampanga ..... 5:30 a.m.
San Jose Parish Church, San Jose, City of San Fernando, Pampanga ..... 6:15 p.m.
Our Lady of Pentecost Parish Church, Loyola Heights, Quezon City ..... 6:30 a.m./p.m.
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City ..... 12:00 nn
Sta. Maria della Strada, Katipunan Road, Quezon City ..... 6:00 p.m.
Sanctuary de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City ..... 7:30 a.m.

His children **Clarita, Bonny, Babes, Seng, Jimmy, Marco, Aida**; grandchildren and sisters **Corazon, Anita** and **Carmen**, request relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

1. Copy of Death Certificate
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

MESSAGE OF THANKS

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

REQUIEMS

FREE OBIT DESIGN

Message of Thanks

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who condoled and comforted us, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and cards of sympathy, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and who in countless other ways helped us in our time of bereavement.

The Family of the late

Donata Ador Lacandola

Vic & Net, Alexis, Jong and Danyael, Peevee, Portia, Cheska and Kaella, and Ramon, Greg & Del, Gary, Gie, Hans and Iyah, Jeffrey, Emem and Ana Mae, Myrna & Noli Del Rosario, Paul Joseph, Paul Thomas, Paul Ian, and Cristina Donna, Hazel & Roy Mangalindan and Mych

PERFECTO K. GUERRERO

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 12, 2004 at the age of 84.

His loving wife **Carnay**; children **Cindy, Boyet, Hazel** (deceased), **Baba, Gina**; sons-in-law **Art** and **Rene**; grandchildren **Tintin, Mika, Patrick, Coby, Joshua** and **Trina**; relatives & friends request the pious reader to pray for his happiness in the house of our Lord.

His remains lie in state at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Church mortuary, U.P. Village, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Monday, February 16, 2004 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 3:00 p.m. Mass.

Jesus "Jess" Villanueva Tiomico

Peacefully joined our lord on February 12, 2004 at the age of 74.

His loving wife **Zenaida**; children **Jake & Joyce, Milen & Bong Inacay, Joey, Gary & Marissa**; grandchildren **Krizzel & Jenna, Jiko & Emil Inacay, GM, Dodge Melicor, Kenneth & Karen Bacosa, Ryan Reyes**; sisters & brothers-in-law **Nilda** (†) & **Cesar Chiyuto** (†), **Carmen, Ester M. Catipon, Dra. Apolonia M. Catipon & Conrado M. Catipon**; nephews & nieces **Marissa & Sonny Melicor, Bertito & Eppie**; other relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel C, Christ the King Church, Green Meadows Subdivision, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 15, 2004 at Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

On Her 1st Death Anniversary

We Remember Our Beloved Lola Ma

CLEOPATRA L. DIZON

of Concepcion, Tarlac
(December 3, 1927 – February 14, 2003)

Her loving husband **Jesus**; children **Tolits, Tess, Jessie, Noi, Tito Mar, Benny**; in-laws, grandchildren, relatives and friends shall offer Holy Mass at Immaculate Concepcion Parish Church on February 14, 2004 at 4:00 p.m.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

We design OBITUARIES for free.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
U.N. Avenue, Paco, Manila

RE-INVITATION TO REGISTER AND TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites Contractors classified by CIAP and registered with PCAB and with technical knowhow in Waterproofing using Polyurethane Spray Foam Technology Application or Contractors with Joint Venture Agreement to Applicators that Specialized in Waterproofing using Polyurethane Spray Foam Technology to register and apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

NAME OF PROJECT AND LOCATION	APPROVED BUDGET	CONTRACTOR'S CLASSIFICATION	CONTRACT DURATION
Repair of MFC Warehouse #4 MFC Compound, Valenzuela City	P4,000,000.00	At least Medium A	120 Calendar Days

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

1. Issuance & Submission of Application Forms For Registration	February 09-16, 2004 (Until 2:00 p.m.)
2. Issuance & Submission of Eligibility Requirements, Registration Certificate & Letter of Intent	February 18-24, 2004 (Until 5:00 p.m.)
3. Conduct of Eligibility Check	February 24-27, 2004
4. Deadline for Issuance of Bidding; Documents and Notice of Eligibility	March 01, 2004 (Until 5:00 p.m.)
5. Pre-Bidding Conference	March 03, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.
6. Submission & Opening of Bids	March 16, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.

Interested contractors shall submit their Registration and Eligibility Requirements and Letter of Intent in the prescribed forms to the Chairman, Regional Bids and Award Committee (RBAC), National Food Authority, U.N. Ave., Paco, Manila.

Application forms and list of requirements for registration may be secured at the NFA-RBAC Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable registration fee of P2,000.00. Only those issued with Certificates of Official Registration may apply for eligibility and to bid upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of Php3,000.00.

NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any defect or informality, and to accept only such bids or to award to any contractor whose bid is considered most advantageous to the National Food Authority.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. JOSE D. CORDERO**
Regional Director, NFA-NCR

(PDI–Feb. 7 & 14, 2004)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VII, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)** invites all interested parties to register with NFA and to apply for eligibility and to bid for a forty two million two hundred ninety eight thousand five hundred thirty one pesos (P42,298,531.00). Approved Budget Contract on *Integrated Cargo Handling Services (ICHS)* in NFA, Cebu Provincial Office. The ICHS involves the unloading of imported rice from foreign vessels to NFA designated warehouses in Metro Cebu, to include, but not limited to, stevedoring, arrastre, use of tugboat, crane, strip cleaning, trimming, bagging, rebagging, Custom's overtime, checkering charges, special/standby charges, hauling, weighing, handling, etc.

Schedule of Bidding Activities:

- Issuance of List of Eligibility Requirements - Feb. 09-15, 2004
- Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Requirements - Feb. 18, 2004
- Issuance of Notice of Eligibility or non-Eligibility - Feb. 12-20, 2004
- Issuance of Bid documents - Feb. 19-25, 2004
- Pre-Bidding Conference at 2pm - Mar. 04, 2004
- Submission & Opening of Bid Envelops at 2pm - Mar. 16, 2004

After payment of a non-transferable, non-refundable application fee of five hundred pesos (P500.00). Interested parties may secure the List of Eligibility Requirements from the Secretariat, Regional Bids & Awards Committee for Integrated Cargo Handling Services (RBAC-ICHS), 2nd Flr., NFA Office, Banilad, Cebu City. Those considered eligible to bid shall pay an additional bidding fee of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) and participate in the Pre-Bidding Conference and the Bidding Proper at the 3rd Floor, NFA Office, Banilad, Cebu City. For further inquiries, you may contact the Secretariat at Tel. No. **232-1939 / 232-6832 / Fax 233-6095.**

Bid award shall be governed by RA 9184 and other pertinent laws, rules and regulations.

The **NFA** reserves the right to reject any or bid proposals, to waive any required formality or defect therein and may accept the bid which is deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd) **FLO G. PASCUAL, *CESO V***
Regional Director

(PDI - Feb 7 & 14, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development for Cagayan Valley
Carig, Tuguegarao City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee of the DOH – Center for Health Development for Cagayan Valley, Carig, Tuguegarao City hereby invites interested bidders to a public bidding for drugs & medicines; medical, dental & laboratory supplies and reagents and office equipment.

The approved budget is sourced from GOP as follows:

Drugs and medicines	P 7,607,778.00
Medical, dental & laboratory supplies and reagents	P 1,272,820.00
Office equipment	P 927,387.00

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Issuance of Registration Requirements, Application for Eligibility and Bid Documents February 16 to March 1, 2004, (Monday-Friday) 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. RBAC Secretariat, DOH, CHD-CV.

Pre-Bid Conference – February 19, 2004 – 9:00 a.m., Conference Hall of DOH, CHD-CV

Opening of bids : March 2, 2004, 9:00 a.m. for Drugs and Medicines, March 3, 2004, 9:00 a.m. for Medical, Dental & Laboratory supplies and reagents and Office Equipment at Conference Hall of DOH, CHD-CV.

Submission of bids shall be before 9:00 a.m. on dates as indicated in the opening of bids. Late bids will not be accepted. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security.

Bid documents shall be given upon payment of a non-refundable bid fee of seven hundred fifty pesos (P750.00) per category.

The RBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and/or part thereof, to waive any defect contained therein and may accept the bid which is deemed most advantageous to the government and supportive to the needs of the DOH, CHD-CV, Tuguegarao City.

For more details, please contact RBAC Secretariat at telephone no. 846-7230.

(Sgd.) **PURITA S. DANGA, MD, MPH, CESO IV**
OIC-Director IV

(PDI–Feb. 7 & 14, 2004)

Valentine Classifieds

Dearest Beth,

It starts with a dream, a dream that changed my whole life. I can remember staring out at quiet star-filled nights, whispering prayers that someday I can really understand the meaning of my dream. Then my prayers were answered! I finally found the special person who was meant for me, and I found 'YOU', my soulmate, my life and my everything.

Whether we're in the crowded hall or just sitting by ourselves, it is in our eyes, when we smile at each other, love is with us. I always feel the absolute happiness whenever I'm with you. I know that I can always be myself around you, because you know me so well; you know my thoughts and understand my feelings, sometimes even better than I do.

Happy Valentine's Day!

I Love You!
Henry

Daddy,
We miss and love you
Dane and ***Mom***

My Dearest Wifey Scarlet,
Happy Valentine's Day!
I tell you now in such a way, that the whole world would know, how much I really love you so. Each waking moment you make perfect and I hope I have that same effect. I Love You!

Love,
RAMPY

MHERLIE

Edna my dear,
You are God's gift to us! We love you!
Stanley & Sted Micah

BI,
When I'm away from you, I'm still with you. When my eyes are closed, I still see you. When I'm awake, I'm still dreaming of you. When I feel I have everything, I still need you. Just wanna tell you how much you mean to me. And how lucky I am to have you. Happy Valentine's Day, love you so much!
Sen

Baby Paula,
Just wanna tell the world how lucky I am to have you.
Happy Valentines!
I love you so much baby!
Mwah!
Baby Ly

Joeby,
I want to spend each day of my life with you. I love you.
Zanny

Dear Papa,
Thank you very much for all the things you have given us... We are always here for you — in all your pars, boggies, and hole-in-one...
Happy Heart's Day
Love you always,
Nica & Mommy

Leng,
YTA
Love,
AM/FJ

Doc Ai,
I only want to spend the rest of my life with you...
Will you Marry Me?
J

A - another life is given to me
G - generously abundant in love and caring
N - no one is more important to me but you
E - endearing yourself
S - sweetly for always.
82003

Ross,
I Love You
Analou

Chekwa,
I'm happy to be spending my Valentines with you. Thanks for coming into my life.
Cute mong Chekwa

Ross,
Thanks for being so sweet
Analou

Star,
If I haven't thanked you enough... now, I'm doing it in a newspaper... beat that?!
Happy Valentines!
Rock

Honey Jo,
No one can separate us from the love of God.
Agape
Boyorey

My Love Arti,
You're the best thing that ever happened to me... I'm thankful for your wonderful love for almost 4 years... With you my life is complete! I will love you for my entire lifetime...
Happy Valentines
to my baby! I love you so much! 16
LINS

Des,
Happy Valentines Day!
I love you so much!
You're the best.
Regie

Mena,
I Love You More.
Dan Montesor

Worm,
I need only you to make my life worth living
Love,
Berg

AYAH,
Bcoz of u, my lyf hs chngd, thnk u 4 d luv & d joy u brng... Bcoz of u, I feel no shme, I tell d wrld, it's bcoz of u...
RV

Daddy Jim,
Thank you for making our life so BEAUTIFUL...
Happy Heart's Day!
we love you,
Mom, Barth and John Robert

Vinces,
For The Man I love...
With All My Heart!!!
Happy Heart's Day!!!
Your Sweetie,
Ros Bacani

Happy Valentines!!!
Lolo & Mommy
Love,
Nana, Nonin & Gelo

Emhielee,
I Love You!
Ronald Marcelo

Honey Bunch,
For that big "YES" on 765 I Love You
Babes

Karen,
You know how much you mean to me.. Whatever happens, I'm always here for you!
Happy Valentine's Day
G3

Dear Daddy,
Happy Birthday!!!
We Love You!
Baby, Teet, Dhumbs, Tidiri & Big Mommy

TART,
I will forever love you
Dito lang ako
Happy Valentines
SSFF

Waiting in Vain this Valentines?
Dial 8-McDO

Shirley A..
Sometimes I feel like I can't express the way I feel about you enough and words cannot describe how much I love and care for you.
I was glad the day you came into my life. You showed me so much love.
I know you know I love you. I don't doubt you feel the same.
We must hold on to what we have, and nurture it with the utmost care and affection. Let's love each other like there is no tomorrow.
I am loving you more and more each day, and will continue to do so for the rest of my life.
Gilbert L.

Bong,
I always thank God for you. I'm very proud having you to love. Can I keep you forever? I love you.
HAPPY HEART'S DAY! *masay*

Happy Valentine's to the 2 loves of my life
Jolla, my wife
&
Cyfo, my son
'Daddy Harold'

Lisa,
Happy Heart's Day!
Dhick Enriquez

Danica,
Happy Valentines Day
Thank you so much!
I ♥ You — Paolo

Jac,
I love you
Bimbim

Happy Valentines
To Jeanelle & Yma
We love the two of you
— Lola Liway
& Lolo Ring

Toni,
Happy Valentine's Day,
I Love You.
Glenn

ANGEL,
You move me to depths I only dreamed of, inspire me to heights I only imagined.
And I love this way you love me... this way I love you... mind, body, soul
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY.
RHANDY

Ethel,
No matter where you are or what you're doing, You'll be with me all day long, in my thoughts, with your smile, your voice your touch, i love you.
Happy Valentine's Day
Gilbert

MOMMY LINDA, MAMA JO & PAPA BUTCH,
may baby CYLO bring us all the happiness this world can offer.
LOVE,
HENDREI, TEK, HAROLD, JOLLA, HAZEL, HERSH, CHRIS, JEMINA & JON-JAN

Laurence,
I love you beyond forever.
Happy Valentines!
Rina D.

Ross,
Happy Valentine's Day
Analou

Wolverine,
The years have been rough, the sea have been stormy and yet we're still together. What does it mean... we're meant to be. Happy Valentine & may the love we have be stronger through the years.
I LOVE YOU!
Rogue

Yayan Laki & Yayan Kulit,
Kayo ang aking kaligayahan... Maligayang araw ng mga puso!
Love,
Bebelina

Vince,
Thanks for all the support and love.
Happy Valentine's Day!
Jolliah

Kimy,
It seems just like yesterday when we first met
It wasn't love at first sight or anything like that
But then when we got to know each other
We begin to realize that we are made for each other
And now as our wedding day draws nearer
One thing becomes clearer
The day that we first met
Is actually the first day of the rest of our lives together.
My fiancee, my soulmate...
Happy Valentine's Day and I love you!
D.

Zamora Family,
Happy, Happy Valentine's Day!
Papa

02142004
Dear Honey & Ryan,
I LOVE YOU
Happy Valentine's!
Daddy

She,
I miss you! I love you!
Happy Valentine's Day!
Ramil

Rowel Agoot,
You're my one & only Babes!
Love,
Leah

Grace,
To my lovely wife! My treasure, My life... I love you so much!
Rey

Lady Dianne, 2/14/04
For the woman I love... "You are my everything too" Happy Heart's Day
Love,
Prince

Year after year, same words have been said but the message gets deeper & deeper, just like the friendship we've shared. Happy Valentines to that one special person who doesn't get tired of loving & giving... We love you Ma'am Emy.
Tin, Ning & Joy

Lenie,
Our love for each other is too strong...
Thanks for helping me in building its foundation.
I love you so much!
Happy Valentines
Jhun

Daddy Jim,
Thank you for making our life so BEAUTIFUL...
Happy Heart's Day
We love you,
Mom, Barth and John Robert

Paula,
Aisteiru! mwah!
Ly

Mom and Dad,
Thank you for always inspiring us to do our best.
We love you!
Your wonderful children, Narciso kids

UP VIZCAYANOS & UPLB COSS
Happy Heart's Day!
Christy

Mama Lyn,
Happy Valentines Day!
I love you!
Papa & Lanz

Bhei,
Mahal na mahal kita!
Happy Valentine's Day!
Happy 5th Monthsary
From
Bhei, Sam & Pollwhirl

Dear Art,
Happy Valentine's
Day to my one and only love
— Liway

Happy Valentine's Day
to our 3 treasures,
Arnel, Arlene & Atoie
Love,
Mama Liway & Papa Art

Veronica,
God knows how much I appreciate your genuine concern when I needed it most.
Thanking you for the undying love you showed in my most critical moments. You only not lighten up my life but lifted my whole being as well. I love you so much!
Happy Valentines
Alfredo

Hazel and Jong,
Keep on loving each other!
Happy Valentine's Day!
Narciso Family

Papy,
We Love You!
Honey & Peachy

Jazmin,
I thank God for giving me such a wonderful wife. I love you very much.
Happy Valentine Day!
Happy, Happy Birthday too!
Bobbie

Bha,
I have found what others are still searching for, I couldn't ask for anything more. I love you very much. Happy Valentine's Day.
Love,
Chay

Richie, Anne, Raizen, Reilly
Happy, Happy Valentine's Day!
"Viva Las Vegas"
Papa & Mama

Maiza,
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY
I Love You So Much!
Arnel

Dear Dad & Mom,
Thank you for all the beautiful things you gave me.
R 'Roxrio' R

Daddy Mahr & Mommy Fely,
You are the greatest God's Miracle in our life. Hope you will be in the best of health throughout the years
We L... Happy Heart's Day
Mahal, Sara & Kaho

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

A LEADING THINK-TANK FOR MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS IS IN NEED OF:

A POLITICAL ANALYST

He or she must have the following credentials:

- → A college degree from a leading university, preferably in political science or related field;
- → An in-depth knowledge of the Philippine political environment, backed up by at least 5 years experience in political analysis
- → An insightful mind
- → Must know *"who's who"* in Philippine politics, preferably with personal contacts with some key figures, and be able to mix with/interview politicians
- → Excellent English writing skills – able to write clearly, succinctly, simply
- → Can work under pressure

If you think you can rise to this challenge, please send your letter of application and resumé to:
14/F Saguittarius Bldg., H.V. dela Costa St., Makati City
or to plw@mydestiny.net c/o Hazel Parial.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

For Immediate Hiring

6 CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENT (Code: CSA)

- Excellent in English communications
- Male/Female. College Level/College Graduate
- Flexible and willing to work in shifts and holidays
- Experience as a call center agent an advantage

1 WEB PROGRAMMER (Code: PRG)

Required Proficiency: HTML, JavaScript, PHP, MySQL, Java (optional), JSP (optional)

- Excellent in English communication skills. Male/Female
- Graduate of BS Computer Science or related course
- Mature, hardworking, trustworthy & can work with minimum supervision
- 1-2 years experience as a web programmer an advantage
- Submit sample websites or work documents

Interested applicants may email their CV or Resumé in MS Word format to msabado@storesonline.com on or before February 18, 2004

IGNATIUS VINCENT T. WARQUE
a.k.a. "CHITO"

The person appearing above has two (2) pending warrants of arrest issued by the following judicial courts:

a) Regional Trial Court – Branch 55, Mandaue City docketed as Criminal Case No. DU-9878 for ESTAFA; and

b) Municipal Trial Court in Cities – Branch 1, Mandaue City docketed as Criminal Case No. 27405 for violation of Batas Pambansa Blg. 22.

(PDI–Feb. 14, 16, 21 & 25, 2004)

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PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE
Air Logistics and Support Command
HEADQUARTERS 420th SUPPLY WING, PAF
Clark Air Base, Philippine Air force
(Air Force City)
Angeles City, Pampanga

NOTICE OF SALE BY PUBLIC BIDDING

The PAF Disposal Committee will receive sealed bids until 02 March 2004, 10:00 AM at Conference Room, 420th Supply Wing, PAF Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga for the sale of the following unserviceable on "As Is Where Is" basis.

Lot Number/Description	Location	Min Bid Price
01-249-020 One (1) SF-260 Aircraft Nr 703 and SF-260 Assorted Aircraft Carcasses	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga /AETC, Fernando Air Base, Lipa City	P513,050.00
5-283-022 Ten (10) T-28 Engines with canister	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga	P450,000.00
5-283-023 Eight (8) T-28 Engines w/o canister	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga	320,000.00
Four (4) ea elevated water tanks	Col. Jesus Villamor Air Base, Pasay City	P466,789.35

REMINDERS TO BIDDERS:
1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding.
2. To submit bid in PAF official bid form.
3. Earnest money is required in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to (10%) of the minimum bid price
4. To be on time. No bid will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commence.
5. Pre bid conference and issuance of Bid forms (P200.00 per set) will be on **24 February 2004**, 2:00 PM at 420th SW Conference Room, Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga.
6. Inspection schedule will be from 16-23 February 2004, from 0800H to 1600H, Monday to Friday.

PAF DISPOSAL COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, AND TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE PAF.

For details and schedule of inspection call Cpt. Bienvenido J. Casaclang PAF at (045) 599-2015 loc 6524 or mobile 09167210260.

(Sgd.) **RUBEN C. ESTEPA**
Brigadier General, AFP
Wing Commander/Chairman
PAF Disposal Committee

(PDI–Feb. 13, 14 & 15, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cebu

BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION to APPLY for ELIGIBILITY and to BID

The Provincial Government of Cebu, thru its BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC), invites all interested manufacturers, suppliers, and/or distributors to apply for eligibility and to submit BIDS for the SUPPLY of the following:

ITEM	PR No.	Purpose	TOTAL Approved BUDGET
1. Drugs and Medicines	04-485	1st Quarter Stocking for 2004	P 2,849,678 00
2. Medical/Dental/Laboratory Supplies	04-486	1st Quarter Stocking for 2004	P 1,632,253.83

In order to qualify for participation in the public bidding, the bidders should conform to the eligibility criteria as prescribed under Section 23.6 of the approved IRR-A of Republic Act No. 9184.

Eligibility and bid forms, tender documents and request for quotation shall be available for issuance at the BAC Secretariat, Provincial General Services Office, Dep-Ed Bldg., Capitol, Cebu City, within the government prescribed office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., starting February 14, 2004, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Pesos (Php 100.00).

Pre-Bid conference will be conducted on Wednesday, February 25, 2004, 1:30 p.m. for item no. 1 and 3:00 p.m. for item no. 2, at the BAC Conference Room, Office of the Provincial General Services, Dep-Ed Bldg., Capitol, Cebu City.

Sealed envelopes containing the duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals shall be received by the BAC Secretariat at the BAC Conference Room, Office of the Provincial General Services, Dep-Ed Building, Capitol, Cebu City, not later than 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon on Monday, March 08, 2004 and shall be publicly opened thereafter.

All particulars relative to eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A) of R.A. No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Province of Cebu reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered complying and most advantageous to the government.

For more information, please contact the BAC Secretariat at Telephone Nos. 253-9614 / 253-3995.

These requirements are posted at the PGSO Bulletin Board, Dep Ed Bldg., Capitol, Cebu City.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO T. HABIN**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI–Feb. 14 & 20, 2004)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. MMD-TRANSCO 2004-007
PD Ref. No.: PB040114-PP0003
PR No.: ATO-03-005002

1. The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (TRANSCO-BAC) - HEAD OFFICE invites local bidders/contractors to apply for eligibility who are
   a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; or
   b. Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines, or
   c. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines, or
   d. Manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors forming themselves into a joint venture, i.e., group of two (2) or more manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract. Provided, however, That Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least sixty percent (60%); or
   e. Cooperatives duly, registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).
2. Procurement of:
   1 Lot - Supply & Delivery of Jet A1 Aviation Fuel (for One Year)
3. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall be specified in the attached Technical Quotation Form of the Bid Documents.
   The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be Bid is **P10,304,470.00** to be sourced from the Internal Cash Generation of TransCo
4. The Bid Documents will be available for issuance starting **February 06, 2004** to **March 08, 2004** at the BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division (MMD), Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)** per set.
5. Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **February 26, 2004** at **10:00 a.m.** at the Admin Conference Room G/F TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City
6. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before 10:00 a.m. of March 09, 2004 at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Ave corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date falls on a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
7. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
8. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposals is most advantageous to the government.
9. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO G. LABAYANI**
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee

(PDI - Feb. 8 & 14, 2004)

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City

is now accepting applications for
Academic Year 2004

I. Fellowship in Adult Cardiology
- 3 years Residency in Internal Medicine accredited by PCP
- PCP Diplomate
  - Deadline for submission of application is on February 27, 2004
  - Academic Year 2004 starts on April 1, 2004

II. Fellowship in Pulmonary Medicine
- PCP Diplomate
  - Deadline for submission of application is on May 24, 2004
  - Academic Year 2004 starts on July 1, 2004

III. Fellowship in Anesthesiology
- 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)

IV. 1 Year Subspecialty Fellowship in:
- Cardiac Rehabilitation
- Electrophysiology
  - Deadline for submission of application is on March 5, 2004
  - Academic Year 2004 starts on April 1, 2004

General Requirements:

1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Weighted Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (coming from different Doctors specifically the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous traning programs)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2"x2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency in required specialty
7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your recommendations to:
JOSE A. YULDE, M.D.
Assistant Director
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion (cp# 09192885303) or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia (cp# 09163021735) with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

A manufacturing firm is looking for skilled and qualified personnel to handle the following jobs below:

– Executive Secretary
– Mechanical Engineer
– Personnel Manager
– Accountant
– Merchandising Supervisor
– Quality Controller
– Warehouse Manager

Please send your resumé with picture to this address:

P.O. Box 8098
1222 Makati City

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS

In Compliance with RA 7041

A. GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER I - SG-26

Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: 3 years of experience in the practice of law, counselling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related work; Training: None required; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

1. **FACT-FINDING AN DINTELLIGENCE BUREAU (FFIB)** - OMBA-GI01-24-1998; OMBA-GI01-25-1998; OMBA-GI01-26-1998 and OMBA-GI01-53-1998 (4 Positions)
2. **PRELIMANARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDCATION BUREAU B (PIAB B)** - OMBA-GI01-30-1998 and OMBA-GI01-64-1998 (2 Positions)
3. **PRELIMANARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU A (PIAB A)** - OMBA-GI01-59-1998

B. FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT SERVICE (FMS)

1. **PLANNING AND BUDGET DIVISION**

   PLANNING ASSISTANT - OMBA-PLA-1-1998; SG-8
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Interested applicants should submit applications within ten (10) working days from the date of this publication to the Human Resource Management Division, at the above address the following: 1) an application letter stating the position/item applied for; 2) duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212); 1"x1" picture (colored); 4) BAR Rating/CSC Certificate of Eligibility; 5) Transcript of Records; 6) Certificate of Seminars/Trainings attended (CSC accredited) and 7) Certificate from previous/present employment stating the position, actual duties and responsibilities.

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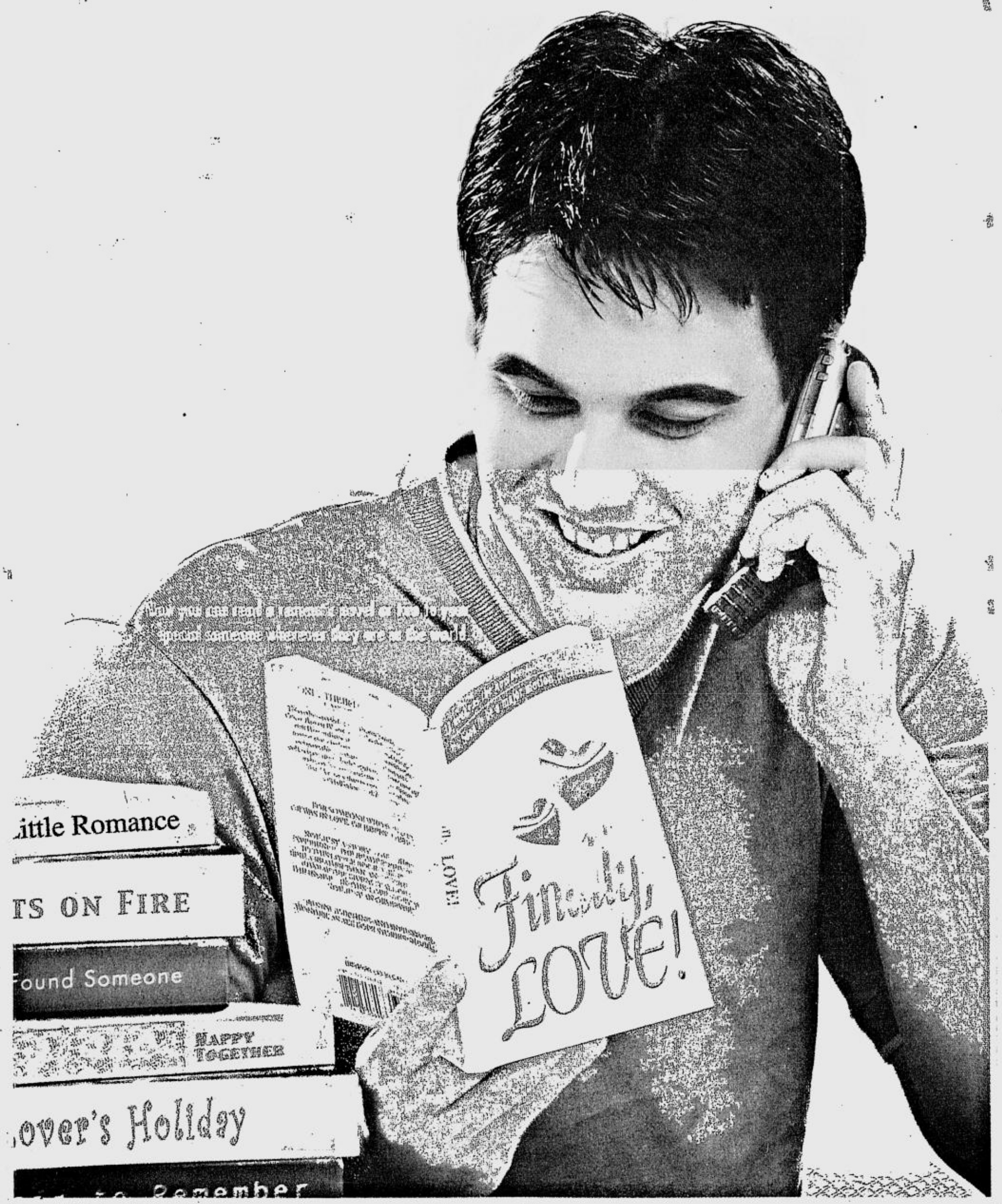

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'Lovesick' —what does it mean?

It has all the symptoms of stress: high adrenaline level, shortness of breath, clammy palms, nerves

By Marge C. Enriquez

LOVE is usually presumed as the state before our dispossession of naiveté. We might surmise love in the Garden of Eden as innocent, a rapport between two souls uncompromised by sensual amorousness. In actuality, when love makes its foray, many of us become incapable of logical behavior.

In the book "Learn to Relax," falling in love—pleasurable as it may seem—is presented as stressful. There's a scientific explanation to the expression "love sickness." When we fall in love, our adrenaline level shoots up, we become short of breath, our palms get clammy, and we get a little nervous. "Love sickness" is a symptom of stress—of being in love.

Contrary to popular belief, the adversary of love is not hatred but fear. Panic ensues when we meet someone that we think could come into our life. We become self-conscious and overly sensitive to the signals we are sending the prospect or newfound flame. Knowing what we have to compromise, we work hard not to foul up in our quest for that union.

One outcome is that we start playing games. Fearful of appearing too eager, we resolve not to call the other person, but wait for him to make the move. We try to be obscure, or just play hard to get. Meanwhile, anticipation is mixed with apprehension. The mind starts imagining that we have to change to become the person that the other idealizes—there is some fear there that our freedom will be curtailed. We become embroiled in various inanities, which perplex both ourselves and our prospect. Wasteful thinking doesn't produce any results.

Strike a balance

To succeed in the relationship, we have to gain confidence and gather our wits together, access our EI (emotional intelligence) by assessing our sentiments—with maybe a close friend as a sounding board (telling the prospect directly might scare him if he's not ready for it). Then we can control the chaos of feelings. Remember, the coupling hasn't been forged yet.

Embarking on a new relationship entails honesty with ourselves and with the prospect. If we agree that there's a need to change to make the relationship work, then there is no benefit in the temporary personality makeover. Instead, face the challenges of the relationship and plan a long-term, strategic change without conceding your individuality.

When the connection has been established, a relationship can be perplexing. Striking a balance so that two individuals may stay together in accord can seem unattainable. A sanctioned relationship requires a constant process of adjustment, sometimes leading to some measure of tension.

To keep a relationship alive, the book "Learn to Relax" underscores the need to understand where the other is coming from and what we expect for ourselves; avoid coercion or blame; be frank about our fears, be ready to look at ourselves and see how we are contributing to the stress in the relationship.

Bonds can collapse quietly as minor complaints fester into enmity, and affection diminishes. As unresolved issues pile up, such tension can seethe into clashes. Keeping an open line of communication is important if the bond is to remain firm and gratifying. This requires listening to the other party from the heart. Cultivate the skill of expression without confrontation or tension.

Removing pressure or stress in the established relationship requires that we give time to the other, as well as give each other enough time apart. Buffer ourselves against accusations or possessiveness; laugh together even in tough times and constantly take the extra mile to show warmth and respect.

Make the bedroom not necessarily an arena for passion, but as sacred ground where peace is validated and love is refreshed.

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Announces the Opening of the

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THE CMC SKIN CENTER is the latest addition to the expanding roster of tertiary health care units available at the Capitol Medical Center in Quezon City. The Center boasts of the state-of-the-art Quantum SR IPL Photorejuvenation and Light Sheer Laser Hair Removal sytems. It was recently inaugurated by the hospital's CEO, Dr. Thelma N. Clemente along with the dermatologist-consultant staff of the center (as shown in the photo below).

(from L to R) Dr. Joanne B. Gonzalez, Dr. Marilu G. Aquino, Dr. Cristabel T. Sy, Dr. Thelma N. Clemente , Dr. Ma. Corazon G. Logarta, Dr. Nenita L. Alberto, Dr. Ma. Veronica J. Estrella, Dr. Evylina G. Guzman.

The CMC Skin Center is open from Monday to Saturday, 8am to 5pm. For further inquiries, call tel. no. 372-3825 loc. 4256.

Picture your politician

Before the explosion of photo-media, the electorate depended solely on candidates' achievements and reputation

By Martin Valdes
Contributor

There is in fact no such thing as art detached from or independent of politics.–Mao Zedong

POLITICS and media have always been strange bedfellows, tossing and turning under the blanket of social scrutiny, and perennially redefining the geometry of their relationship. It is the specific medium of photography that has proven the most revolutionary in the development of modern politics. While mightier than the sword, the pen could be less eloquent than a photograph taken in a serendipitous light. Today's politicians are aware that, rightly or wrongly, a striking pose is more effective propaganda than the best thought-out platform. Prose may continue to do ample justice to Helen's beauty, but it was still her face that launched a thousand ships.

Otto Von Bismarck defined politics as the art of the possible, and photography has been called the art of apprehending time. If anyone is authorized to affirm the correlation between possibility and chrŏno-captivity, it is the mediators of both arts who, for a brief moment in time, become catalysts to this intersection.

Close encounters

Wig Tysmans, Francis Abraham, Raymund Isaac and Isa Lorenzo are photographers who have had close-up encounters of the political kind. The former three are established names in the industry, collectively amassing decades in terms of professional practice. Rare is the magazine being sold today without one or all of them in the credits.

TYSMANS

ABRAHAM

ISAAC

Isa Lorenzo has been plying her trade for about three years now in the urban jungle of New York, but has also worked in various provincial locations across the Philippines. With common passions and uncommon experiences, these artists have had the enviable opportunity of sharing valuable camera-time with several politicians as their subjects. Enviable indeed, as we've all wanted to shoot a politician at some point in our lives.

They are quick to acknowledge the significance of their craft with regards to the business of politics, especially in the Philippines. "The Filipino people are generally not listeners. We are lookers driven by images," Raymund Isaac contends. A big part of this cultural trait is due to our innate penchant for creativity and beauty. As a people, we prefer visual expression and visual communication. Wig Tysmans recounts walking into Filipinos' homes across all economic stations and seeing evidence of this aesthetic awareness, from elaborate paintings to colorful calendars.

Poverty and lack of education are realities that likewise factor into our partiality for optical stimuli—visual media in all forms offer a distraction from our daily grind. The obvious downside to this is that we often neglect to listen, preferring to trust what we see rather than arrive at a more thorough understanding of a subject matter, be it an event or a personality.

Politician-celebrity

The modern politician has become a celebrity. Before the explosion of photo-media, the citizenry depended solely on their statesmen's achievements and reputation. By no means is this a localized phenomenon. Isaac explains that studies in the United States have shown that top requisites for a successful campaign included celebrity and comeliness—intelligence and platform did not make the list. The trend is to first elect someone into office, and then assess his platform. Consider the new governor of California.

Isa Lorenzo affirms: "Actors and models sell a product—their next movie or their sponsor. Politicians are their own product." This packaging consciousness has lent new dimensions to the relationship of photographers and politicians, and inadvertently drawn attention the subtle parallels between them. Says Francis Abraham, acknowledging the photographer's role: "Show biz, advertising, politics—it's the same thing. Whether or not they deliver on their promises is another story. Their picture helps them, theoretically, get a lot of votes."

Most politicians have developed a sixth sense for the camera and are often prepared for the occasional guerrilla snapshot. Once in the confines of a studio, such flash-bulb anticipation can prove challenging. Isa recounts how one session almost snagged because the politician, who had been advised to smile a certain way and at a specific angle by another photographer decades ago, refused to surrender to a more natural pose. "I just had to wait until she got tired," Lorenzo sighs.

Impromptu publicist

Media savvy subjects, Raymund notes, show more composure in front of the camera.

Politicians, unlike paid models, are unaccustomed to receiving instruction. "When I told (ex-President) FVR to please tuck in his stomach, he didn't like it. After the shoot, he said 'Wig, give me your camera', and he ordered me around. 'Turn to your left, your right, look at the camera.'"

Prominent political figures rarely have the time to build the rapport most photographers deem necessary to shoot an effective portrait. The projected image is always a point of contention. Some politicians are vaguely aware of the attributes they wish to communicate, and others haven't got a clue. Abraham narrates a recent shoot wherein he became the subject's impromptu publicist by instructing him to dress and pose in a less intimidating manner.

Isaac is often asked what image would suit his subjects, a question that still boggles him. "Why are they asking me? They should be telling me what image they want, and I'll shoot it." Other subjects tend to disregard the concept of credible deviation by asking too much of their photographer. How do you portray a characteristic that isn't there?

The difference that distinguishes a political figure from a model or an actor is employment hours. Models and actors understand that their work is done when the camera stops clicking; a politician has to be a politician as long as there is a voter in close proximity, which is always. A disturbing side-effect to this constant career consciousness is a tendency for political figures to fall victim to their own press. Self-belief is one thing, but egocentricity stemming from an image manufactured by other people is bizarre.

Moral obligation

And then there is the nagging question of moral and ethical obligation. It would be fair assessment to say that not all of our politicians are going to make it to Heaven, but several may make it to Office. A photographer is accomplice to this process. "As a photographer we are helping the candidate get elected. Unless we make them look bad, and we can't really do that now, can we?" Abraham points out. So does the photographer ever reject political clients on the basis of personal bias? The school of thought that extols integrity as a guideline is a noble but difficult prescription. While most everybody would appreciate the luxury of being able to select their clientele, modern economics reserves that privilege for but a few. The reasons for not accepting a job offer lie not only in principle, but in creative hindrance.

"If I don't believe in the person, how can I do justice to the job?" Tysmans muses. Others categorize a political figure as just another subject in just another job, maintaining that the professional aspect of photography disassociates personal bias from the shoot. "Would I shoot them? Yes", Lorenzo says, "Would I vote for them? Probably not."

Their experiences vary, but the common thread that weaves through their stories is an appeal for excellence in what they do. Politics is just another backdrop, another reason to pick up the camera and succumb to creative voyeuristic urges. The approaching elections will test our nation's nerve, self-worth, and sense of humor.

"I love it," Isaac laughs, "it's like a soap opera where something is always happening, some new twist develops every week." As cameramen, they are audience to the spectacle as well as contributors to the script. They've had the opportunity to observe firsthand that enigmatic creature called a local politician in the controlled environment of a studio. What alien notions did they notice, what extrinsic suppositions did they see in the eyes of our political figures? Nothing but our own reflection. That politics, like photography, is about truths and lies. That we are a people empowered to design our success or our entropy.

Or, as Abraham puts it, that we deserve whomever we elect. That's democracy.

Planet Chiron and man's new destiny

Synchronicity is the buzzword of the millennium; everything is interconnected

By Georgina C Solina
Contributor

THE WORLD is changing at nanosecond speed and we are influencing it right now. How we conduct ourselves, the words we speak, and the attitudes we convey affect the earth—now. Synchronicity is the buzzword of the millennium; now is the time to be responsible for our actions.

This is what the planets are saying.

With the dawning of the Age of Aquarius, the sign of revolution, we are beginning to realize that some long-held beliefs are no longer valid. A new planet that is affecting other planets plays a big role in this. In 1977, scientists discovered Chiron, which orbits between Saturn and Uranus.

As the new planet in the horoscope, Chiron opens up new horizons. In the astrological birth chart, the astrologer can show how Chiron is positioned by the zodiac sign and the house and how it is connected to other planets to determine our healing process. Healing does not only mean physical healing, but also spiritual upliftment.

Before Chiron's discovery, astrologers mostly focused on Saturn, fearful of the planet's transits. Saturn rules our lives by making us follow the universe's rule of law and discipline—or suffer the consequences. Saturn also narrows down our perception of things. This is why for centuries, the rigidity in science obstructed legitimate advances in our understanding of life.

New awareness

For so long, through reason and materialistic science, we perceived ourselves as merely a state of "being," with buzzing impulses in the nervous system. We have also been distanced from the energies of Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto, profoundly changing our lives. Uranus rules energy resonance with the cosmos; Neptune rules mystical letting-go of hate and fear; Pluto rules transformation and spiritual cleansing—the intense settling of karmic accounts.

Chiron's discovery on Nov. 1, 1977 has heightened the energies of these planets. This explains the rise of self-awareness and values-based education. Importance has been given to intuition, to realizing that the self is a being endowed with a conscience, and to understanding how positive and negative attitudes could affect our health. It also led to the popularity of healing arts such as crystal therapy and other body-mind healing methods, as well as the rise of studies on near-death experiences.

Many new consciousness programs, movements, and new paradigms—such as Asilomar with David Spangler and Dr. Brugh Joy, Jean Houston workshops, and Chris Griscom's work with gold needles—started in the fall of 1977. Readers should take a moment to reflect on changes in their attitude and behavior since that time.

Children born after Nov 1, 1977, will teach their grandparents to let go of their death wish, and will inspire the adults to rediscover the reality of the spirit so that they can learn to live more creatively and more peacefully.

Elliptical orbit

Chiron's orbit is extremely elliptical; it is not circular, and it rules spiraling forms of evolution. It rules the helix point in growth to create room for new organization. It rules initiation, death and rebirth. Chiron, therefore, is the realm beyond linear time, which is ruled by Saturn. Chiron's influence has inspired scientists to make inroads in physics, and new ideas on space and time that could change our view of reality.

Scientist Hermann Minkowski showed in mathematical terms that the past, present and future for each person always meets at a single point—now. And that the now of the person is found wherever he may physically be.

Physics and math have shown that time has no preference; it can run to and fro. We sense it forwards because that is how we were trained to see reality—by the clock and calendar. But have you wondered why you might have an intuition to choose one activity over another? Perhaps the future self is sending unconscious messages back through time, following our hunches and affirming our choices.

The synchronicity principle is proving that everything is connected to everything else, therefore, everything one does affects everything. Chiron's influence in connection with Uranus, Neptune and Pluto signifies bridging the gap between our personal transformation and world transformation.

Midlife crisis

Planets linked to Chiron feel unstable at first; they represent energies that we feel compelled to experience and master. Chiron's role is to destabilize, to give us a wake-up call.

Real mid-life crisis sets in at age 42-43 if we have not yet done the work of transforming our egoistic desires into benevelonce. In the first Chiron return at age 50-51, we either improve our attitudes or we undergo a crisis. This Chiron transit makes us confront past issues. Otherwise, Thanatos (death, whose force is represented by Saturn) takes over at an earlier age.

Few have achieved this transit, although the cycle has always been present—saints and mystics have called it the path to enlightenment. The story of St. Thomas' life is an example of this 50-year cycle. He was extremely gifted in logic or left brain, at the expense of his right brain, which rules intuition and spirituality. At age 50, he became blind and mute. Yet he was able to write his last work "Aurora Consurgens," an alchemical tract. After he finished it, Aquinas died.

It doesn't mean that we will perish in our 50s if we are not spiritually aware. It just means that 50 marks a new phase in life. Whether the transition is seamless or stressful depends on how we have conducted ourselves in the preceeding years.

On the positive side, there's now a critical mass of older women who are breaking new ground and making such a difference as never before seen in history, said Gerda Lerner, historian. Chiron has a 50-year cycle, because maturity can't be rushed: even at 40 not everyone can say they have reached their peak.

Under Chiron's influence, 50 is when we start acquiring our most profound and mature character. In other words, life would begin no longer at 40, as they say, but after 50.

For feedback, write to solhaus @mindgate.net

The wit behind 'Sex and the City'

Cindy Chupack writes with such gleeful disregard for the opposite sex, that if this book were written by a man, he would be accused of misogyny

BOOK REVIEW

By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez
Contributor

The Between Boyfriends Book
A Collection of Cautiously Hopeful Essays
By: Cindy Chupack
St. Martin's Press 2003

IF YOU'RE a fan of the HBO series "Sex and the City," you should know that although the characters are based on her columns, Candace Bushnell does not write for the show. So if you went out and got her books expecting the same kind of clever puns that the show is famous for, you were probably disappointed.

It is the wit and humor of writer and executive producer Cindy Chupack that are stamped on most of the show's award-winning episodes. Chupack, who has written for publications like Glamour, Harper's Bazaar and Allure, recently published "The Between Boyfriends Book," chronicling her dating experiences which are very similar to Carrie Bradshaw's running narrative of her exploits on the series.

A cross between "chick lit" and "self-help", Chupack's book finds humor in heartbreak, dishing out a whole new dictionary on what many single women go through. For example, she describes "premature 'we' jaculation" as "a common dating dysfunction occurring when one member of a couple uses 'we' before the other is ready;" "man-me-downs" as "men who are passed on from one another after a failed attempt at romance."

You can be sure almost all women (and men) out there will find something to relate to in this collection of essays. How many have been "lone-rangered?" This means having a relationship ended abruptly by someone you then realize you hardly knew. How many hate the "Halloweenies"? This is the feeling you get when Halloween comes, ushering in the holidays—and you have no one special.

Been there

Chupack laments all these—from receiving the 200th Christmas card with a photo of the family you have yet to create, to the DNRR ("Do Not Resuscitate Relationships") for tired affinities that simply should not be given another chance—and yet she has something hilarious to say about each situation. And with all that obvious cynicism lacing every sentence, in the end you realize she is still in search of "The One," that elusive soul mate supposedly destined to complete a woman.

Reading the book, it sometimes seems like one of the TV show's characters is speaking to you. After all, the book and the series have the same philosophy and tone. Makes you wonder if the author could ever shake off the shadow of "Sex and the City." Thankfully, her style makes you laugh out loud, so that it doesn't really matter in the end.

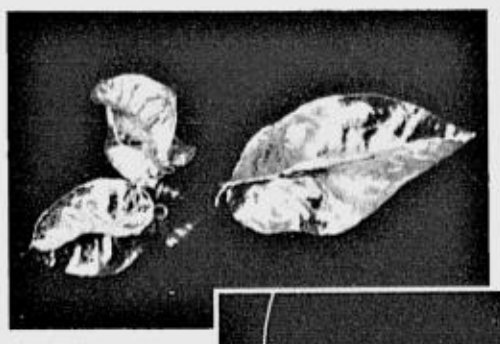
Chupack writes with palpable empathy; reading her work is like having a drink with a girlfriend and comparing relationship stories. It is cathartic in a way, because when you're reading the book you say to yourself, "Aha! I've been there." The author's accuracy is proof that she's been there herself. So, funny as it is, the book does give sound advice—or, in the very least, food for thought.

Good fun

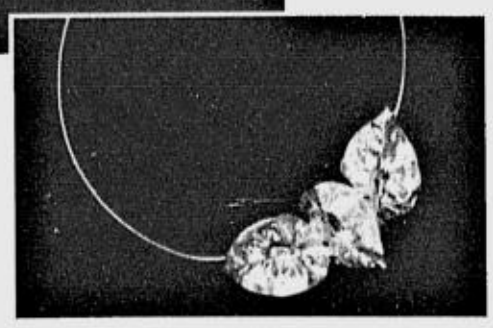
Conservatives who criticize "Sex and the City" for allegedly promoting promiscuity will definitely find fault in the book. Chupack recounts buying loads of condoms and having phone-sex with "wrong numbers." She discusses these things rather casually, illustrating the fact that women's roles in society have changed. In fact, sometimes Chupack writes with such gleeful disregard for the opposite sex, that if this book were written by a man, he would be accused of misogyny. Having said that, it's all in good, mischievous fun. It is a reminder that you can take charge of your life, and that you should never "settle down" just for the sake of having a man.

Today, a day when the whole world, it seems, is obligated to celebrate "love," be happy for those who have it and hopeful for those who don't—who are simply between boyfriends. A new sense of self-awareness is burgeoning, and those inspirational books are on the rise. Well and good. But sometimes it is nice to pick up a good read that doesn't take itself too seriously. As the author herself says: "This book is not about giving advice. It's about commiserating and ultimately celebrating this crazy, heart-wrenching, exhilarating time in our lives, because it doesn't last forever. It only seems like forever."

FROM excess vanda roots to a gilded vanda; dainty pins from dragonflies



BOUGAINVILLEAS, big and bonsai, as pin and earrings



BOUGAINVILLEA gold-plated necklace

Gilded Expressions from garden inspirations

Photos by Bobot Meru

DESIGNER-craftswoman Ann Pamintuan discovered a wealth of ideas from her own garden in Davao City.

What started out as a hobby in horticulture and floral arrangement has led to a practical arts career. Her electroplated designs under the name Gilded Expressions, inspired by the textures and shapes of Nature, have found their way to international furniture and design fairs—and garnered awards.

It all started with trimming the twigs from her shrubs and removing excess orchid roots and the vines of curtain plants. She electroplated these garden rejects and made pendants, earrings, brooches and bangles out of them, dipped in copper, nickel, silver or gold. Her exotic and innovative designs excited friends. Soon she was also working with bougainvilleas and sampaguitas. Eventually, she did her own version of dragonfly brooches.

Pamintuan explains that in the electroplating process, organic materials have to be made into conductive materials. Thus the dried twig, plant or insect is coated in copper, then in nickel to make it firm, then dipped in silver or gold. Although copper tarnishes easily, she says, the reddish finish creates a leathery effect. The longer it is exposed to the elements, the more valuable it becomes.

Home decor, too

Orchid roots inspired the enthusiastic hobbyist to create things for the home. She made a one-meter wall plate and containers made of hand-welded mesh wire, which got the nod of the Europeans. She won the Grand Prix in Metal in a Stockholm exhibition. Her famous wire Cocoon Chair won the Product Award in Manila Fame and found its way to the International Design Yearbook and the Graphis Product Design book.

For boosting the image of the Filipino designer in the international market, she was given the Golden Shell Presidential Award. This year she won the Asean Design G Mark of Excellence for her "Laso" vases called Sun and Moon, and three-seater chair. The Sun vase is hand-twisted like the ribbon that inspired it, and hand-welded. Moon, the smaller version, is nickel-plated. The Threesome chair is made of wire and can accommodate three persons seated, or one lying down.

As much as practicality, there's certainly elegance, too, in Nature's provisions.

AVAILABLE AT B AT HOME, 235 NICANOR GARCIA AVE, BEL-AIR 2, MAKATI CITY. TEL. 896-6316

POSTERITY BAG

Jackie Ejercito Lopez brought with her to a fashion pictorial the popular Anya fun tote from London. Everybody knows the former First Daughter is also daddy's girl. The custom-made bag (by Anya Hindmarch) has a photograph of former President Joseph Estrada and his best friend and presidentiable Fernando Poe Jr. in their prime. The public seems to have forgotten how gorgeous they looked in their youth.

PHOTO BY DENISE WELDON

RICKY REYES' PRIME SALON

Celebrity hairdresser Ricky Reyes recently opened his first Ayala Center Salon at Glorietta 1. Unlike in his other branches, the salon's design is clean, the interiors and lighting are soft. Glass panels with water curtains separate the parlor from the spa. "The new look puts across the message that we offer not just expert, friendly service but a total salon experience," says Reyes. A bonus is that the salon opens as early as 8 a.m. for an early-morning function and closes at 10 p.m. or for an after-dinner quick-fix.

TOM PECHEUX designs
SHISEIDO THE MAKEUP
Spring/Summer 2004 Collection

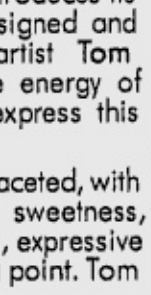
Shiseido The Makeup proudly introduces its **Spring / Summer 2004** collection, designed and created by leading French make-up artist **Tom Pecheux.** His artistic vision captures the energy of both the woman and The Makeup to express this season's new look.

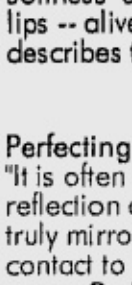
Tom created a look that is multi-faceted, with a depth that incorporates the strength, sweetness, softness and flexibility of a woman. Full, expressive lips -- alive with lush color -- are the focal point. Tom describes the new make-up products:

Perfecting Lipstick (11 new shades)
"It is often said that the eyes are a reflection of the soul. For me, the mouth truly mirrors emotions. It is the point of contact to others. And when a woman wears *Perfecting Lipstick*, her lips -- and her kisses -- become irresistible."

Silky Eye Shadow Quad
(3 new color palettes)
"These color palettes are tools to playfully express a woman's spirit. They let others sense her joyful and feminine attitude."

Sheer Enhancer Base (Opalescent White or Golden Bronze)
"*Sheer Enhancer Base* can be worn alone or mixed with foundation. On its own, it refreshes the complexion and creates a sparkling, exuberant, 3-D look. It enhances the skin texture and gives the face an aura of brightness."





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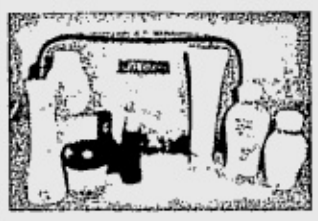

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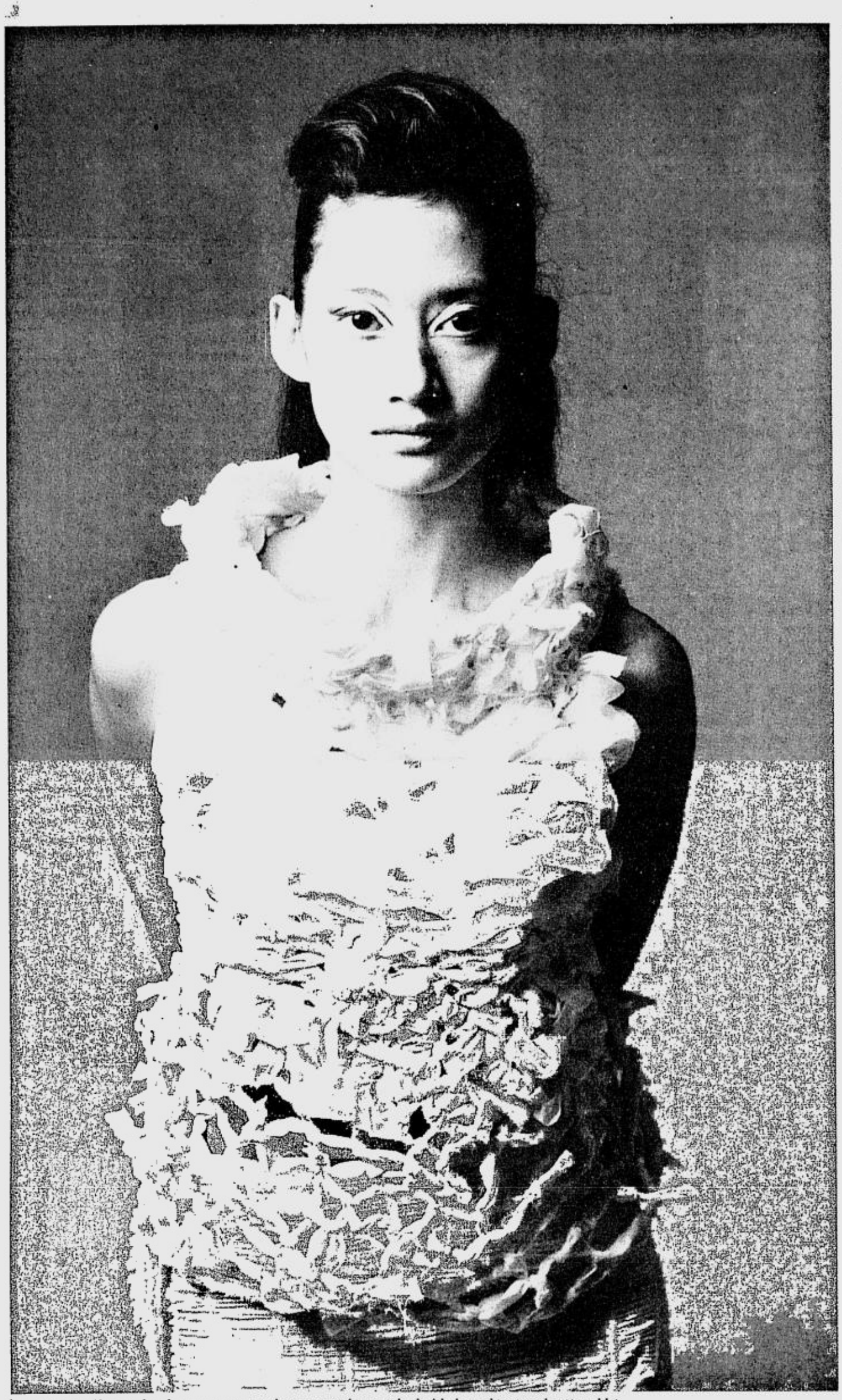
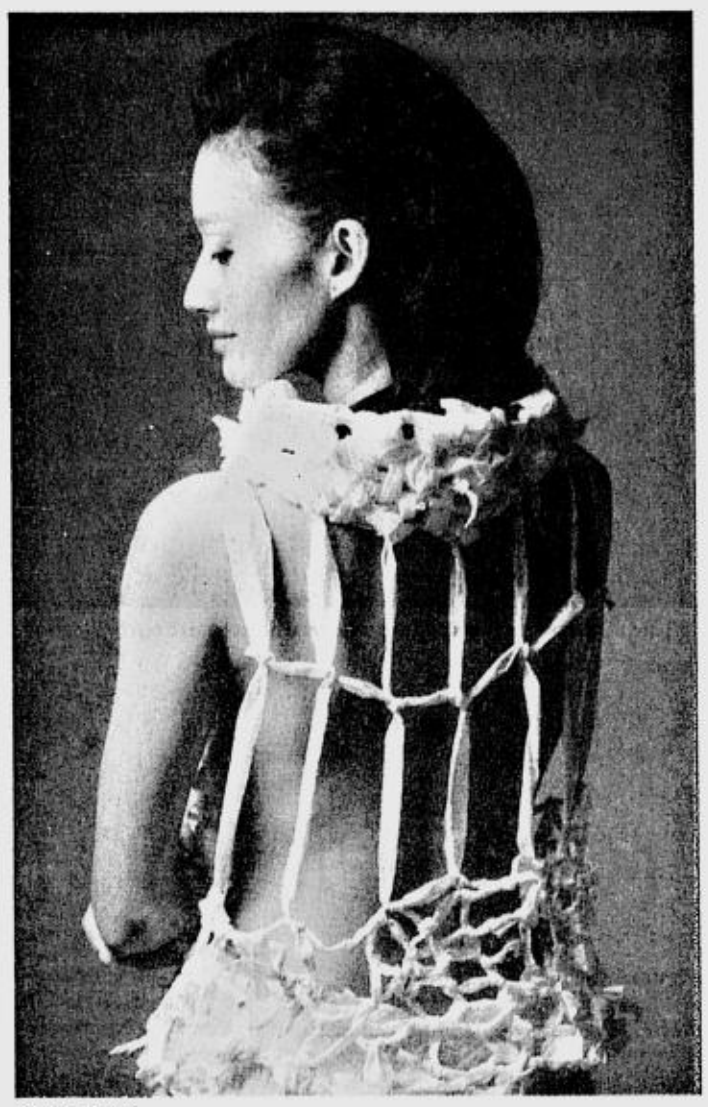
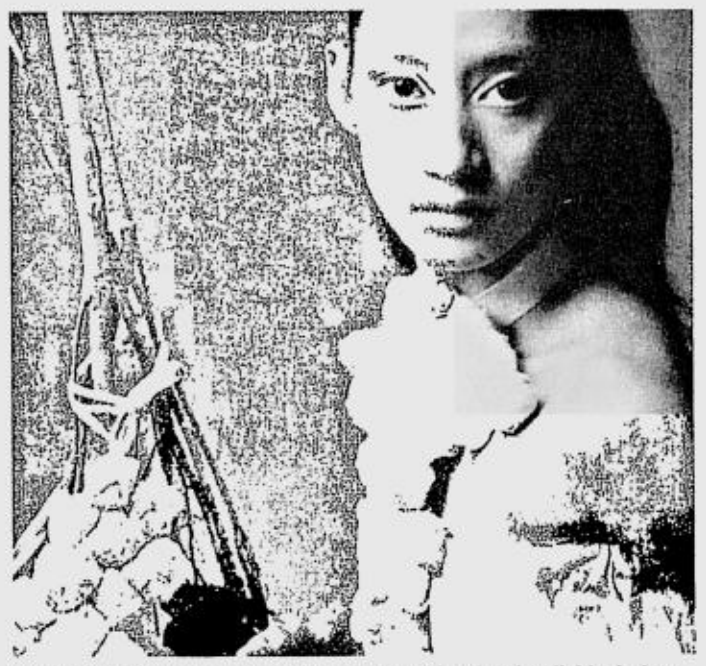


TOP made of knotted and woven cotton and organza strips matched with draped textured cotton skirt



BACK detail



WHITE stretch cotton bubble top dress with print detail. Neckpiece made of linked *katsa* balls

WHITE cotton dress with tie-up shoulders

WHITE canvas dress cinched at the waist with gartered belts decorated with *katsa* balls.

Fashion fast forward

...and back. James Reyes' clothes look futuristic, but they really return to basic shapes and sensibilities

Photos by Denise Weldon
Pictorial direction by Antonio Salac Santos

BETTER late than never.

Campaigns & Grey creative director James Reyes ventured into fashion designing after age 30. He feels a bit too "mature" as a new member of the Young Designers Guild. But then in the Zeros, what is age but a number?

Only two years in the business, Reyes, 33, has earned a reputation for being a conceptual designer, or maker of "mind clothes." His aesthetics is rooted in geometry and minimalism.

Reyes first caught the attention of Campaigns & Grey president Yolanda Ong in 1993, when she sat as a panelist in his thesis defense. He presented a multi-media campaign for an optical store which had the slogan, "More than Meets the Eye." Impressed by his wit and the stunning visuals, Ong asked Reyes to join her firm. He worked his way up from copywriting trainee and visualizer to art director. Today he handles Pantene and Del Monte, among the top accounts. His colleagues jested, "*Inutusan ka lang sa tindahan, hindi ka na bumalik* (you just ran an errand and never returned)!"

I first met James when we photographed his former flat, which he shared with an officemate, Boboy Consunji. James said that when he arranged the house for the shoot, it felt as if he were directing a pictorial. Eventually, he did a few layouts for us.

Once when he was going to Europe, he offered to watch out for fashion trends. He came back with illustrations! One thing led to another. Soon enough I would be at their apartment early in the morning, lugging clothes, shoes or bags for illustrations, and a bleary-eyed James or Boboy would be opening the gate.

Two years ago, James joined a fashion designers' competition sponsored by Mega magazine. He told me that he had mustered enough courage after doing illustrations for INQUIRER. Deep inside and for so long, he confessed, he had wanted to try his hand at making clothes. Even if other designers claimed illustrations didn't count in the pre-selection, he figured that interesting visuals would grab the jurors' attention.

Reyes ended up a finalist with an all-white collection of shifts and long skirts.

"The shapes are all flat, but if you pulled a string, they would turn into bubble skirts, the drapes would turn into triangles, and the rectangle into a cube blouse," he said. The clothes were meant to be worn in many ways, evoking multiple meanings. Like religious mantles, they do not fit like second skin. He tends to forego traditional closures.

For Young Designers' Competition in Paris, he created a ballgown that had no seams, only staples and hooks. The blue taffeta bouffant skirt was stapled together. As a textural contrast, the top, attached by hooks and eyes, was made of paper cotton.

Though cerebral in his approach, Reyes had taken the traditional route of learning pattern-making at Slim's. However, with his day job's busy production schedules, he had a hard time completing the course. He finds the basics useful, but admits he lacks the patience that pattern-making requires.

YDG colleague LZ Punzalan describes Reyes' clothes as "Bjorkish," meaning something that Bjork, the eccentric singer from Iceland, would wear. Among the brave souls who wear his clothes are Lala Flores and Angel Aquino. He'd make a top with "a cylindrical neckline that falls on the shoulders." Another blouse, inspired by the computer cursor, is a triangle whose pointy shoulders extend from the square bodice.

The YDG is known for "fearless" designs, but Reyes insists they are also practical. "We learn from each other about how to run the business, yet not be limited by convention."

His own loose, albeit androgynous, clothes go against the current trend of body consciousness, complicated workmanship, and costly materials. Forward-looking as they are, Reyes' designs really hark back to basics, as though to remind us that looking forward is actually looking back. Fashion, like time itself, moves not in a linear progression but in a cycle.

Marge C. Enriquez

Model: Erica Marquez
Hair and makeup: Dennis Tan

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TOP made of knotted and woven cotton and organza strips matched with draped textured cotton skirt

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Marge C. Enriquez

Model: Erica Marquez
Hair and makeup: Dennis Tan

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The Peninsula HK's fabulous fund-raiser

TO MARK its 75th anniversary, The Peninsula Hong Kong recently held a charity gala. Owner **Michael Kadoorie**, chair of The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels Limited, and the board of directors raised US$500,000 to support Aids Concern, Camp Quality Hong Kong, Hong Kong Alzheimer's Disease Association, Kely Support Group and Make-A-Wish-Foundation of Hong Kong.

Donation funds were generated from event partners American Express, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, Cartier and Dior, friends of the hotel and lifestyle and silent auctions, conducted by Sotheby's.

Prizes in the live auction included a trip for eight to The Peninsula Beijing in a Gulfstream private jet; a Cartier 1928 vintage clock; a trip for two to UK with first class airfare and a private guided tour of the Rolls Royce Motor Cars workshop; a Vertu white gold mobile telephone; and a trip to Thailand for four with business class airfare and stay at The Peninsula Suite of The Peninsula Bangkok.

Guest of honor was Hong Kong SAR Chief Executive **Tung Chee Hwa**.

Kadoorie is one of the wealthiest men in the world, with a net worth of $3.3 billion. The family business was established in 1880 in Shanghai by his grandfather **Elly Kadoorie**, a Jewish Iraqi from Baghdad.

Michael Kadoorie is also chair of CLP Holdings, which supplies electricity in Hong Kong and has equity interests in power plants to China and Southeast Asia, India and Australia. The Kadoorie family has property interests through its private company, Kadoorie Estates. It also has interests in Tai Ping Carpets, The Hong Kong Business Aviation Centre at HK International Airport, and owns Heliservices (helicopter charter) and Metrojet (executive jet charter). The family has also been known for philanthropy, helping build infrastructure and schools, and funding agriculture projects in Hong Kong to help war victims.

MARISSA Chan, Kitkat Silverio Zobel de Ayala, Manila Peninsula Hotel Inc. directors Teresa Chan Sola and Helen Dee (2nd row) Manila Peninsula Hotel Inc. (MPHI) director Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Hong Kong Shanghai Hotels Ltd. Director Ian Boyce and The Peninsula Manila general manager David Batchelor

MANILA Peninsula Hotel Inc. director Peter Go Pailian, former The Peninsula Manila and the Kowloon Hotel general manager Rolf Pfisterer and The Kowloon Hotel general manager Ip Hon Ming

MARGARET Go Pailian with Manila Peninsula Hotel Inc. president and COO David E.T. Lim and his wife Penny

HONG KONG Shanghai Hotels Ltd. director Ronald Mc Auley with friends Franco and Rose Delgado

KADOORIE FAMILY. Betty, Philip and the chair of Hong Kong Shanghai Hotels Ltd. Hon. Michael Kadoorie with Asian superstar Michelle Yeoh

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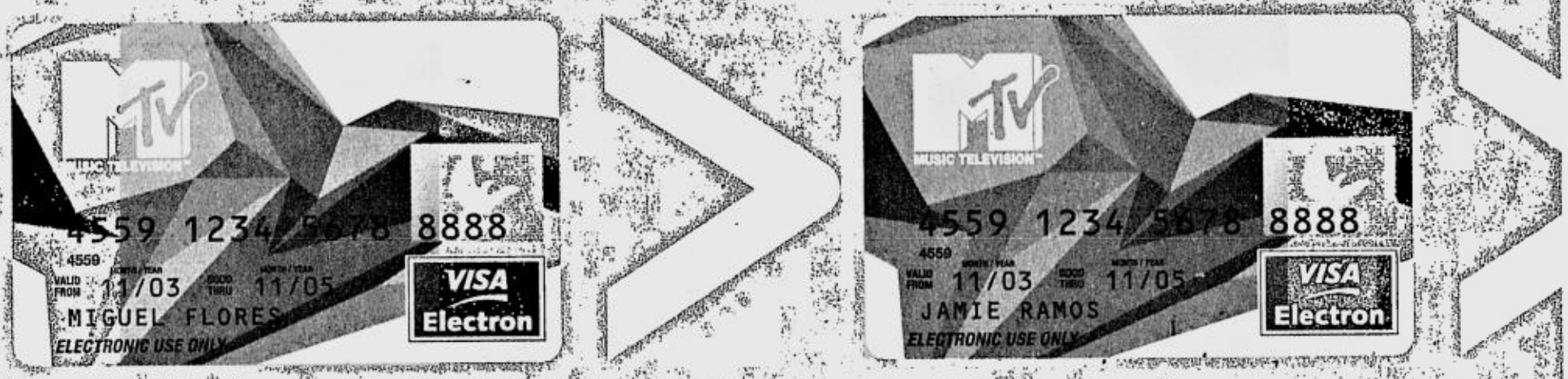

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- Bistro 110
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- Cheesecake Etc.
- Chef & Brewer Café & Restaurant
- Pazzo
- Piper's Wine & Bar Restaurant
- Piu Pazzo (Olive Branch)
- Ratsky
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- Seiji Restaurant
- Sushi-ya Japanese Restaurant
- TGI Friday's
- Whistle Stop

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- David's Day Spa
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SWIPE SWIPE SWIPE SWIPE SWIPE SWIPE SWIPE

A Japanese retreat

The general palette is kept to the grays and browns of wood and stone, the only 'real' color being the pale yellow of the walls, which matches the sky come dusk

By Meluchi A. Rivera
Contributor
Photos by Ava Lugtu
Pictorial direction by Albert Avellana

FOR architect-contractor Manny Dimaculangan, the project for a most precious "client" was an exciting challenge. "This was meant to be a surprise for my wife," he says of the 1,200 square meters of land that is now the family's favored weekend retreat.

He could not keep the secret for long. Two months after breaking ground, Dimaculangan brought along his wife Lisette to see what he had envisioned to be the farmhouse of their dreams, a cluster of Japanese-inspired structures incorporating a small pool area, a gazebo, and a small family cottage.

But the missus—also an architect by training and a practicing interior designer—had ideas of her own. She thought of enlarging and enclosing the gazebo and turning it into a dramatic master bedroom. The second structure would eventually house a more expansive kitchen and dining area. "There were lots of changes," she recounts, laughing. "Luckily my husband was used to clients changing their minds."

Color of dusk

The design for the pool area was left untouched. Dimaculangan got the original concept from a spa that he had visited in Phuket, but altered the lines to fit the Japanese theme. The elevated "infinity" pool, done in shades of gray, now sits proudly at the property's eastern end, and the gurgle of water splashing off its edges onto a surrounding bed of black river pebbles is the first sound that greets visitors.

The two main structures are at the center of the lot, away from roads on three sides. The general palette is kept to the grays and browns of wood and stone, hewing closely to the Japanese traditional building philosophy of keeping things in harmony with nature. The only "real" color is the pale yellow of the walls, which matches that of the sky come dusk.

It is the bedroom structure that first catches the eye, set as it is upon a recessed foundation box that makes it seem to float above ground. From the outside it appears as a near-perfect square encased almost entirely in green frosted glass, with a high-pitched roof of asphalt shingles.

Glass doors on its northern and eastern sides slide open to reveal a minimally furnished room with a dual persona. The outer rim, paved with low-maintenance ceramic tile, is strewn with *tatami* pillows and is earmarked for lounging during the day. The actual bedroom setup is dominated by a platform bed and a sitting area. Antique *travesias* of solid wood are turned into load-bearing posts, and their placement around the raised platform enhances the room-within-a-room feel.

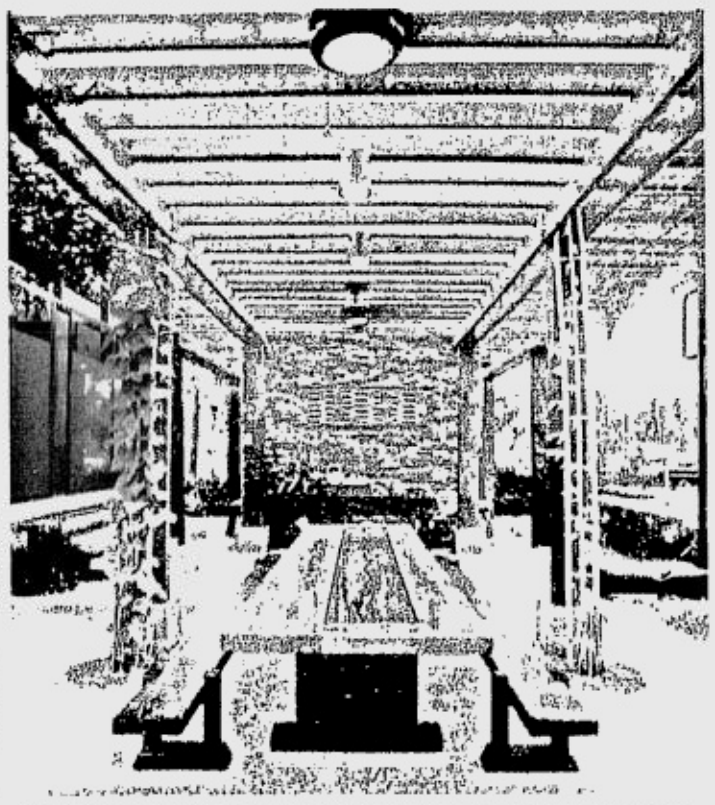
Perhaps providing the most interest is the master bathroom, a mere four feet in width. Far from being a claustrophobic experience, answering the call of nature in this setting could be liberating, as the bath is entirely walled in clear glass and looks out onto a pocket garden (enclosed, whew!). As Dimaculangan explains it, this touch of drama came entirely out of necessity: "The original plans didn't incorporate a bathroom, so we had to literally insert it into the remaining space."

Views and values

The kitchen structure, at 80 square meters, is only a slightly smaller building, but it appears even more modest, as its walls are set further within the property. The fully equipped kitchen leaves nothing to be desired by way of a gourmet's creature comforts. Visual interest is provided by the square, eight-seat dining set across the room. Aggie Pagkatipunan designed much of the furniture, which she especially crafted for the couple using Dimaculangan's collection of antique *dao*, *narra* and *molave*.

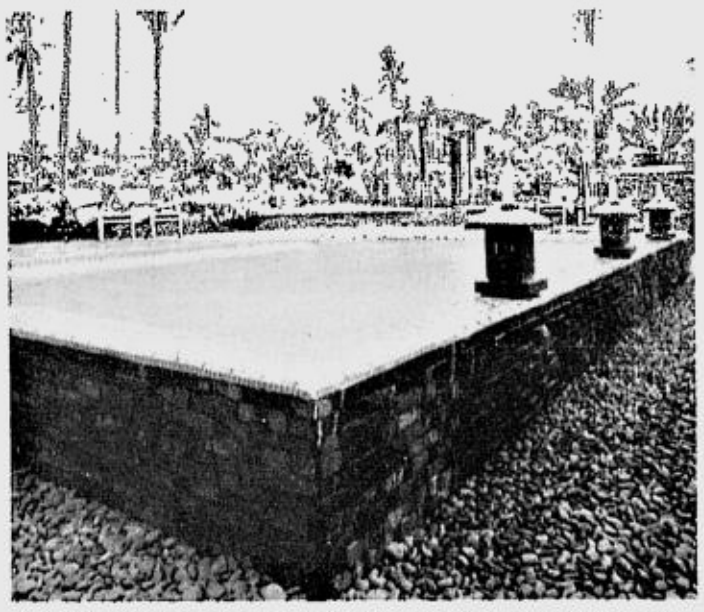
There is much to appreciate within the lot, as each fertile square meter of earth has been designed to do double duty. Herbs and flowers, nearly all of which are edible, make for a picturesque garden at the pool premises. A trellised area connects to a common bath, and houses a long table that seats 20 at most—perfect for outdoor barbecues and entertaining large groups of guests. A meditation garden of dry white pebbles doubles as a place for visitors to pitch tents, and is the best spot from which to appreciate the view of Mt. Malarayat to the east. To the back of the property, a lily pond that is also home to 800 heads of *tilapia* meanders around a patch of lettuce, radish and other vegetables in season.

The three Dimaculangan children also have a section where they can plant their own crops and eventually harvest them. "It's really great for our kids because they get to appreciate nature," Manny notes. "When we come here, we're not just relaxing, we're also imparting values."

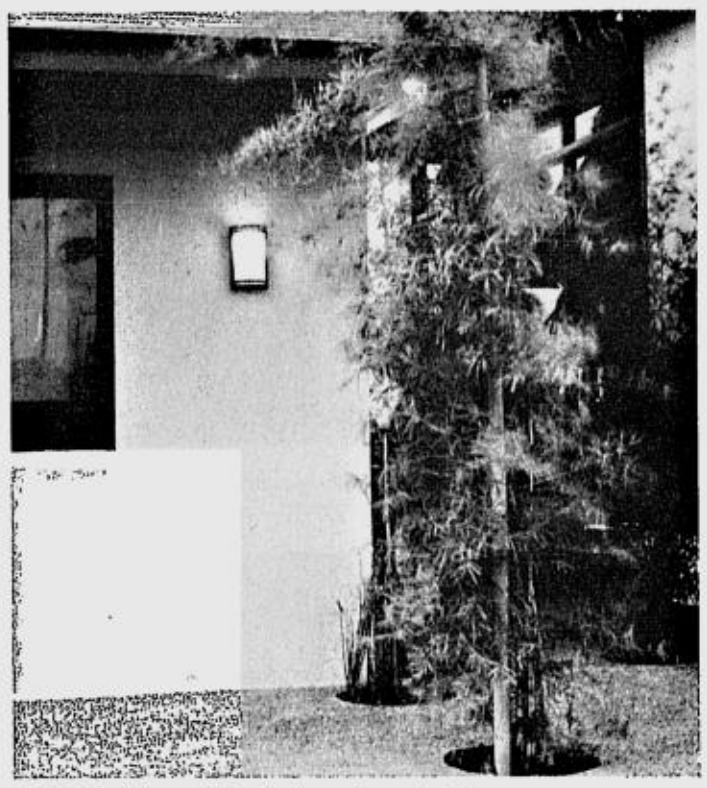


UNION OF NATURE AND CONTRIVANCE. Pergola is highlighted by a 12-foot table made of solid slabs of *narra*. Vines are encouraged to grow to create an arbor.

THE GARDEN'S subtle combinations of a few elements within a color palette registered by foliage shades and pinks of blossoms



LOOSE river stones that make the raised hot pool are reference to elemental forces that loom larger in our lives.



A PLOT hole is a stylish substitute for a plant box.

COMMUNAL SPACE. Blending the boundaries of privacy and sociability.

FLOATING SPACE. An entrance to the house shows the toilet enclosed in glass. One can enjoy the pocket garden while performing ablutions.

Near-death by chocolate

Wading through nearly 70 varieties of truffles, ganaches and pralines in two heady days

IT SEEMED the dream assignment: to sample and rate the city's best chocolates. Going by reputation, my editor and I quickly narrowed down the choices to three premiere hotels and two commercial outlets. That was the easy part. The sampling itself proved harder than I thought.

Just a few things for the record: Firstly, I am a chocolate lover but not a chocoholic. I do not binge on the dark stuff, but rather savor small quantities in a sitting. Secondly, my preference is for intense shots of cocoa, the more bitter the better (dark chocolates contain over 50 percent cocoa, yum!); thus the need to try the white chocolates (25-plus percent cocoa), which just doesn't cut it for me. Thirdly, this exercise aims to survey the landscape, map out what's "out there" and, in the process, suggest items to try. A definitive, scientific guide, this isn't.

Sampling

Which brings us to the contents of five colorful boxes.

The first two are from The Peninsula's Exclusivites and The Mandarin Oriental deli. In the days of Martial Law and the early '80s recession, these places were Manila's meccas for people who craved for chocolate truffles. The Pen still has a separate counter dedicated to Pralines Surfins, and a box of 24 (priced at P831) already presents 20 different delights.

Meanwhile, The Mandarin has a more select line of about 10 different truffles. Procuring a box of 16 (P529) was simple enough, but for my insistence on asking highly technical questions such as, "What ingredients go into this one?" Apparently, this was more than some hotel staff were used to.

The smallest box came from Makati Shangri-la's gourmet corner, which only had a small plate of ganaches to show during my visit. The deli has no permanent range of chocolates on offer; rather, it carries what the kitchen produces that day. This serendipitous system may work for Forrest Gump; but it is frustrating for a writer on a mission. I came away with a box of 12 bonbons containing just eight variants (P350).

The last two packets come from stores that have only lately created a buzz in the local market. Their histories could not have been more diverse: Leonidas has existed since 1913 and is steeped in a long, loving tradition of Belgian excellence in chocolate production. Max Brenner—the brand with the bald-man logo—portrays itself as the modern, tradition-flouting, almost anti-establishment brand, which first opened Down Under seven years ago.

Leonidas boasts a whopping line of 85 chocolate products. Most fillings come with either dark, milk or white chocolate outer shells; and chocoholics of any preference could go wild over the choices. Priced according to weight, my much-abridged sample still came to over a dozen truffles and pralines (P955).

Max Brenner's bonbons are uniquely square and sport playful, pastel geometric designs. They are hip and, at P960 for a box of 18 tiny morsels, pricey.

Winners

I needed reinforcement, or risk death by chocolate. Other palates were gamely provided by two sets of parents (my husband's and mine), four sets of siblings and in-laws (his and mine), and two brothers (his).

At last, we cut to the chase. Samplings of the three hotels' lines produced many hits, several misses, and ultimately a handful of standouts. The Pen had one clear winner: the dark truffle flavored with Cointreau and rolled in chocolate sprinkles. Texture is silky, the dark chocolate is smooth and not too bitter, and it leaves the mouth with just a hint of liquor. Also worth trying are the milk chocolate with mocha filling and the honey-filled white chocolate, for an intense sugar fix.

The Mandarin's line of dark chocolates was impressive. The champagne truffle (rolled in cocoa powder) is truly my kind of confection: pleasingly bitter, with a buttery soft, yielding core. The hard dark truffle is the most bitter of the ganaches from the hotels, yet somehow it manages to retain a creamy taste. And the brandy truffle won praises, too, for its filling, which intensified the flavor of the hard choco coating.

Makati Shang's lean line-up served up two surprises. The hazelnut-filled chocolates, coated either in dark or milk choco, and the orange-filled dark chocos are worth trying one's luck at the deli counter for.

We come to Leonidas, and here I face a dilemma. For how can I not sound like a paid hack when I have to say there were no misses among the varieties I tried? Incredible. It was one hit after another. Even the white chocolate line was wonderful, extremely sweet but not sickeningly so. Side-by-side comparison only highlights the brand's superiority. Leonidas obviously approaches production like a science: textures are consistently luxuriant, cocoa flavors perfectly blended, fillings (especially those laced with liquor, i.e., champagne, amaretto and whisky) so distinct yet well-balanced. In a word, *wow*.

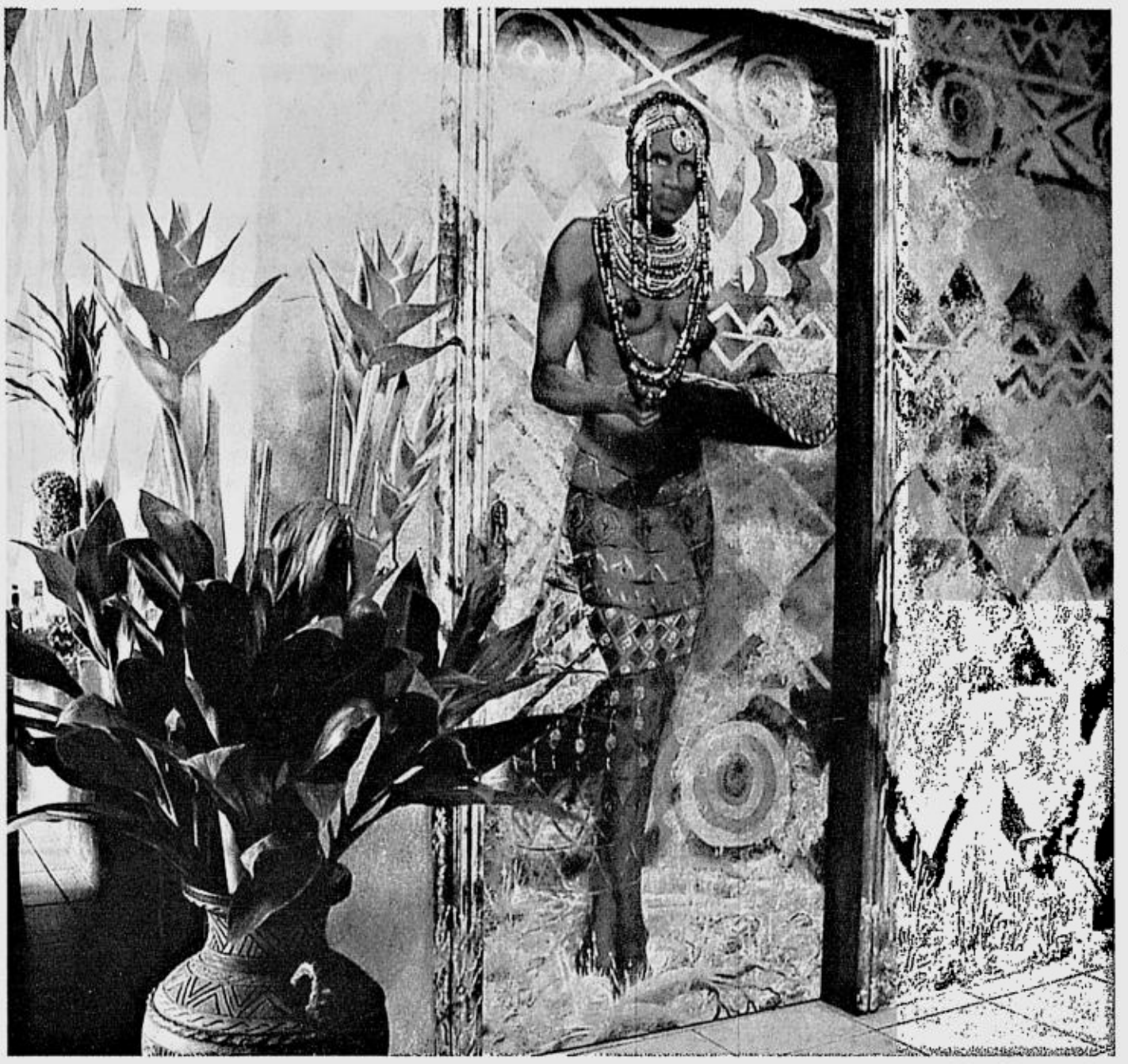
With such superlative company, can the bald man still astonish? Yes, mainly because the Max Brenner line deliberately seeks to set itself apart. Such exotic, dark-covered offerings cannot but stand out: think lavender, spices, even corn flakes and pepper. The blend of chocolate is also distinct, with hints of nutmeg and allspice that tends to stay on the tongue long after the bonbon has disappeared. It is, in the very least, a novel experience.

"A novel experience" also well describes this assignment as a whole. Few can claim, as I now can, to have waded through nearly 70 kinds of truffles, ganaches and pralines in two heady days. I suspect my blood sugar will take a few days to normalize.

And you can bet that this Valentine's Day, there is at least one female in Manila who will not be looking for a box of chocolates.

Meluchi A. Rivera

NO HYPE. Belgian chocolates win, hands down.



STENCILED door with decoupage of an African queen for the ladies' restroom

UNSTOPPABLE. Morita Roces

FOOD and furniture are part of visceral experience. Meal du jour–taro leaves stuffed with rice and pork and chicken curry, Nigeria style

To Africa and back

Morita's serves exciting new dishes and sports an exciting new look

By Meluchi A. Rivera
Contributor
Photos by Teddy Pelaez
Pictorial direction by Albert Avellana

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For reservations, call 6319620

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Near-death by chocolate

Wading through nearly 70 varieties of truffles, ganaches and pralines in two heady days

IT SEEMED the dream assignment: to sample and rate the city's best chocolates. Going by reputation, my editor and I quickly narrowed down the choices to three premiere hotels and two commercial outlets. That was the easy part. The sampling itself proved harder than I thought.

Just a few things for the record: Firstly, I am a chocolate lover but not a chocoholic. I do not binge on the dark stuff, but rather savor small quantities in a sitting. Secondly, my preference is for intense shots of cocoa, the more bitter the better (dark chocolates contain over 50 percent cocoa, yum!); thus the need to try the white chocolates (25-plus percent cocoa), which just doesn't cut it for me. Thirdly, this exercise aims to survey the landscape, map out what's "out there" and, in the process, suggest items to try. A definitive, scientific guide, this isn't.

Sampling

Which brings us to the contents of five colorful boxes.

The first two are from The Peninsula's Exclusivites and The Mandarin Oriental deli. In the days of Martial Law and the early '80s recession, these places were Manila's meccas for people who craved for chocolate truffles. The Pen still has a separate counter dedicated to Pralines Surfins, and a box of 24 (priced at P831) already presents 20 different delights.

Meanwhile, The Mandarin has a more select line of about 10 different truffles. Procuring a box of 16 (P529) was simple enough, but for my insistence on asking highly technical questions such as, "What ingredients go into this one?" Apparently, this was more than some hotel staff were used to.

The smallest box came from Makati Shangri-la's gourmet corner, which only had a small plate of ganaches to show during my visit. The deli has no permanent range of chocolates on offer; rather, it carries what the kitchen produces that day. This serendipitous system may work for Forrest Gump; but it is frustrating for a writer on a mission. I came away with a box of 12 bonbons containing just eight variants (P350).

The last two packets come from stores that have only lately created a buzz in the local market. Their histories could not have been more diverse: Leonidas has existed since 1913 and is steeped in a long, loving tradition of Belgian excellence in chocolate production. Max Brenner—the brand with the bald-man logo—portrays itself as the modern, tradition-flouting, almost anti-establishment brand, which first opened Down Under seven years ago.

Leonidas boasts a whopping line of 85 chocolate products. Most fillings come with either dark, milk or white chocolate outer shells; and chocoholics of any preference could go wild over the choices. Priced according to weight, my much-abridged sample still came to over a dozen truffles and pralines (P955).

Max Brenner's bonbons are uniquely square and sport playful, pastel geometric designs. They are hip and, at P960 for a box of 18 tiny morsels, pricey.

Winners

I needed reinforcement, or risk death by chocolate. Other palates were gamely provided by two sets of parents (my husband's and mine), four sets of siblings and in-laws (his and mine), and two brothers (his).

At last, we cut to the chase. Samplings of the three hotels' lines produced many hits, several misses, and ultimately a handful of standouts. The Pen had one clear winner: the dark truffle flavored with Cointreau and rolled in chocolate sprinkles. Texture is silky, the dark chocolate is smooth and not too bitter, and it leaves the mouth with just a hint of liquor. Also worth trying are the milk chocolate with mocha filling and the honey-filled white chocolate, for an intense sugar fix.

The Mandarin's line of dark chocolates was impressive. The champagne truffle (rolled in cocoa powder) is truly my kind of confection: pleasingly bitter, with a buttery soft, yielding core. The hard dark truffle is the most bitter of the ganaches from the hotels, yet somehow it manages to retain a creamy taste. And the brandy truffle won praises, too, for its filling, which intensified the flavor of the hard choco coating.

Makati Shang's lean line-up served up two surprises. The hazelnut-filled chocolates, coated either in dark or milk choco, and the orange-filled dark chocos are worth trying one's luck at the deli counter for.

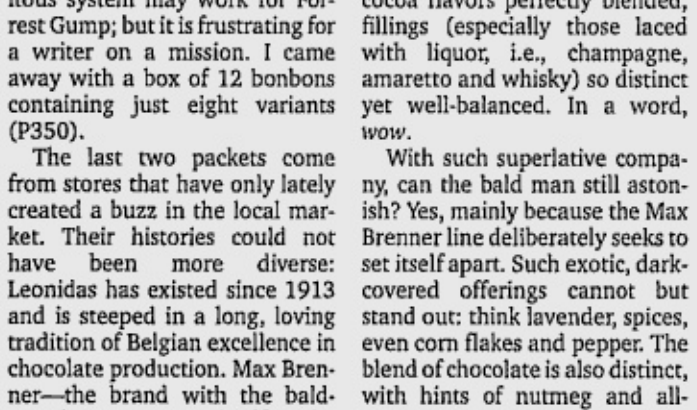
We come to Leonidas, and here I face a dilemma. For how can I not sound like a paid hack when I have to say there were no misses among the varieties I tried? Incredible. It was one hit after another. Even the white chocolate line was wonderful, extremely sweet but not sickeningly so. Side-by-side comparison only highlights the brand's superiority. Leonidas obviously approaches production like a science: textures are consistently luxuriant, cocoa flavors perfectly blended, fillings (especially those laced with liquor, i.e., champagne, amaretto and whisky) so distinct yet well-balanced. In a word, *wow*.

With such superlative company, can the bald man still astonish? Yes, mainly because the Max Brenner line deliberately seeks to set itself apart. Such exotic, dark-covered offerings cannot but stand out: think lavender, spices, even corn flakes and pepper. The blend of chocolate is also distinct, with hints of nutmeg and allspice that tends to stay on the tongue long after the bonbon has disappeared. It is, in the very least, a novel experience.

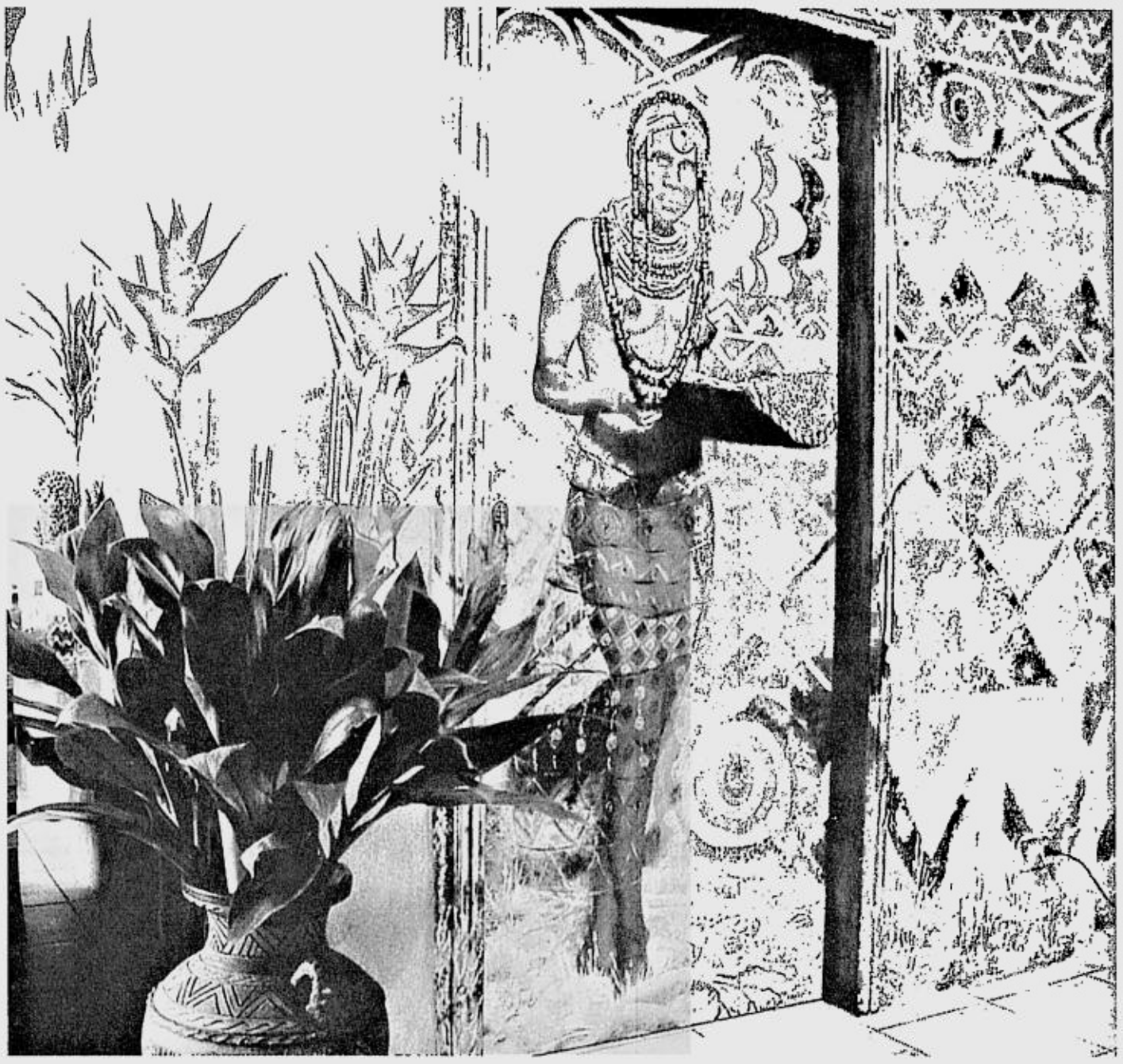
"A novel experience" also well describes this assignment as a whole. Few can claim, as I now can, to have waded through nearly 70 kinds of truffles, ganaches and pralines in two heady days. I suspect my blood sugar will take a few days to normalize.

And you can bet that this Valentine's Day, there is at least one female in Manila who will not be looking for a box of chocolates.

Meluchi A. Rivera



NO HYPE. Belgian chocolates win, hands down.



STENCILED door with decoupage of an African queen for the ladies' restroom

UNSTOPPABLE. Morita Roces

To Africa and back

Morita's serves exciting new dishes and sports an exciting new look

By Meluchi A. Rivera
Contributor
Photos by Teddy Pelaez
Pictorial direction by Albert Avellana

FOOD and furniture are part of visceral experience. Meal du jour–taro leaves stuffed with rice and pork and chicken curry, Nigeria style

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ÉLAN

Home, five-star home

Imagine not having to get into your car and endure the horrendous Metro Manila traffic every single day

TOM Zita, vice-chair of the Kuok Group of Companies, in the living room of the Shang Tower unit designed by a Hong Kong firm

By Avie Gochoco-Perez
Contributor

IMAGINE home in a 46-story Manhattan-type building in the heart of Makati.

Imagine it standing out in a sea of staidly "corporate" buildings around it. Imagine home's green-tinted glass sometimes catching your gaze as the sun's rays sweep their expanse. Imagine mauve—or purple—in the exterior of your home, as elegant and perhaps as royal as only the Shangri-la properties of the world and their builders can pull it off. Imagine your home feng shui-ed as feng shui should be carried out.

Imagine your favorite mall, banks, hotels, office buildings within walking distance. Imagine not having to get into your car and endure the horrendous Metro Manila traffic every single day.

If these imaginings bring a smile to your face, then you should be one of the 250 or so happy owners of a unit at The Shang Grand Tower, the Kuok Group Philippines' first venture into high-end residential condominium development in the country.

Tomas C. Zita Jr., a Filipino-American who is country head of Kuok Group Philippines, is confident that the time has come for a project such as The Shang Grand Tower in the Philippine landscape.

Much brighter side

Where pessimists see only political uncertainties in the run-up to the national elections, where they see only the pummeling of the peso, where they see only the government's huge budget deficit, Zita, fortunately for the country, sees the much brighter side.

The May elections should clear the air of political uncertainties, he believes. The weakening of the peso is actually good for those who have the dollars with which to buy units in The Shang Grand Tower, for one. "There are a lot of opportunities in the Philippines," he says.

He notes that the real estate market has fluctuated quite a lot from the mid-'90s and that, along with it, prices have dropped so that high-end condo units today go for about P80,000 per sq.m. where they used to cost P100,000 per sq.m. or more.

Also, in deference to cost-effective maintenance needs, unit sizes range from 80 sq.m. to 275 sq.m. for the one-bedroom to three-bedroom units. These are more manageable than those of other high-end residential condos, where large lobbies and overly large unit sizes command unreasonably high association dues.

Easier to secure

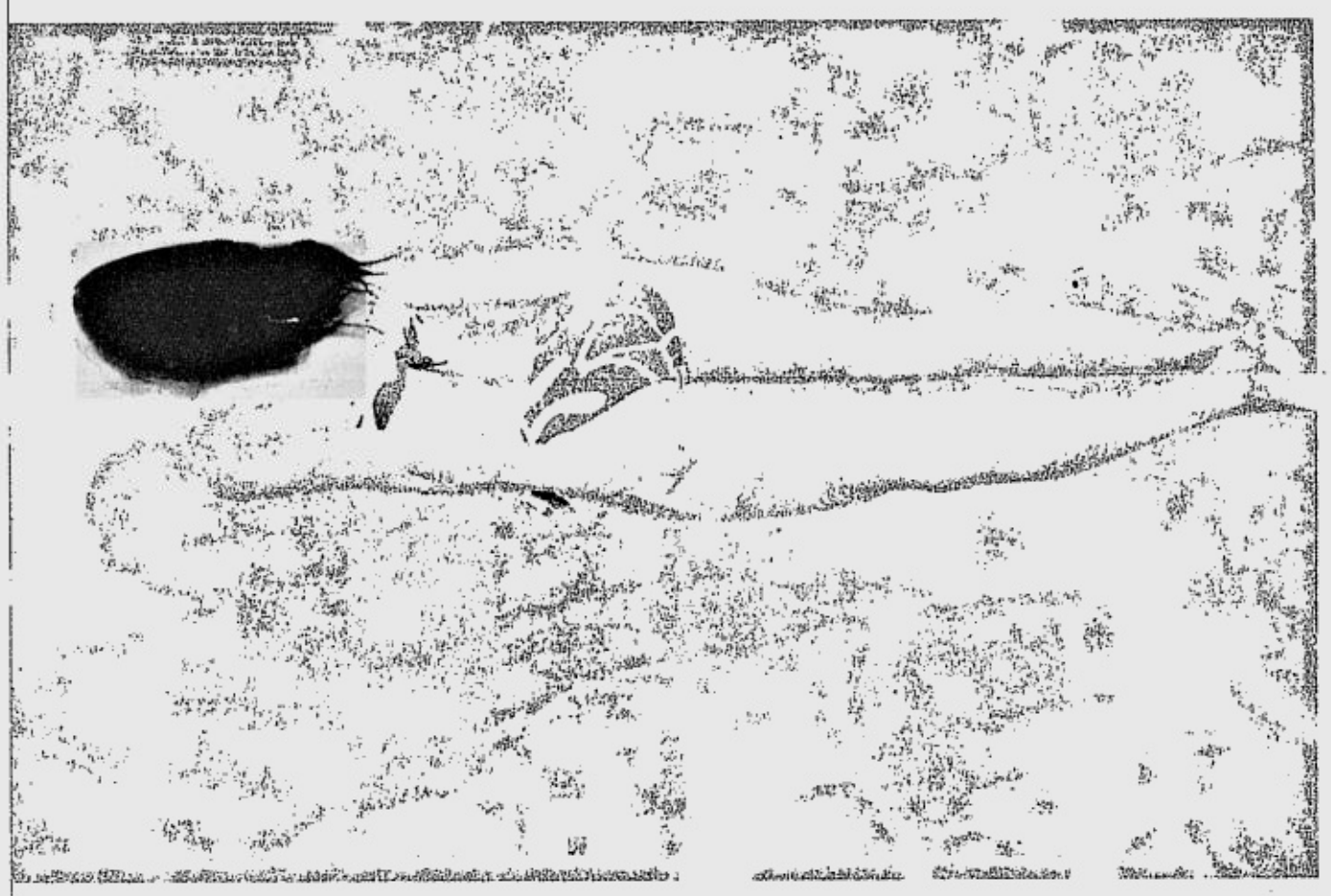
Need for security in one's home is definitely a plus factor for The Shang Grand Tower. Zita points out that it is easier to secure a building than a house and lot. Moreover, because of The Shang Grand Tower's tie-up with its sister, the Makati Shangri-la Hotel, unit owners will enjoy posh hotel services such as "a concierge who makes sure no one goes up to your apartment unannounced. We are even looking at the possibility of maid service."

About half the 250 total units have been sold, with Zita revealing that the two-bedroom type unit is the best seller. Target market is the upper middle class to upper class, he says, along with "young couples establishing their careers ... to empty nesters" who need a compact, secure place to call home.

Foreign businessmen are also a potential market, Zita says, with many of them "recently moving to the Philippines because they see value in this country compared to the rest of Asia." Local business folk, especially those from the provinces who'd like to have a place in Manila, should see only wise investment in The Shang Grand Tower.

When you live at The Shang Grand Tower, you can walk to the business center, you can walk to the mall. "It has a great location," Zita puts it simply. And you can enjoy service that rivals a five-star hotel. Should be hard to resist.

AN EXQUISITE RESIDENCE.
AN EXCEPTIONAL INVESTMENT.
AN EXTRAORDINARY LOCATION.



The Shang Grand Tower
Your Shangri-La!

Come home to the ultimate in comfort, luxury and style that Shangri-La is famous for around the world.

- Stunning 46-storey building housing 250 five-star residential units of one, two, three and four bedrooms
- Unique 3-street frontage – corner Dela Rosa, Perea and Nieva Streets in Legaspi Village, Makati
- Walking distance to Greenbelt, Glorietta and the Makati business district, yet far enough from the hustle and bustle
- Luxury amenities and services include 2 well-appointed lobbies, an Amenities Zone on the fifth floor, gym and fitness center, adult and children's pools, concierge service and Makati Shangri-La Hotel link services like catering and 7-day laundry service

Model units ready for viewing. Monday to Sunday, at your best appointed time. The Shang Grand Tower Sales Office, 4th Avenue corner Rizal Drive, Global City, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

THE SHANG GRAND TOWER LOCATION

For inquiries, please call
Tel. 811-1819, 811-0556 or fax 811-0557.

The particulars, details and visuals shown herein are intended to give a general idea of the project and as such are not to be relied upon as statements of fact. While such particulars and details are based on present plans, which have been prepared with utmost care and are presented in good faith, buyers are invited to verify their factual correctness and subsequent changes, if any. The contents herein are subject to change without prior notice and do not constitute part of an offer or contract.
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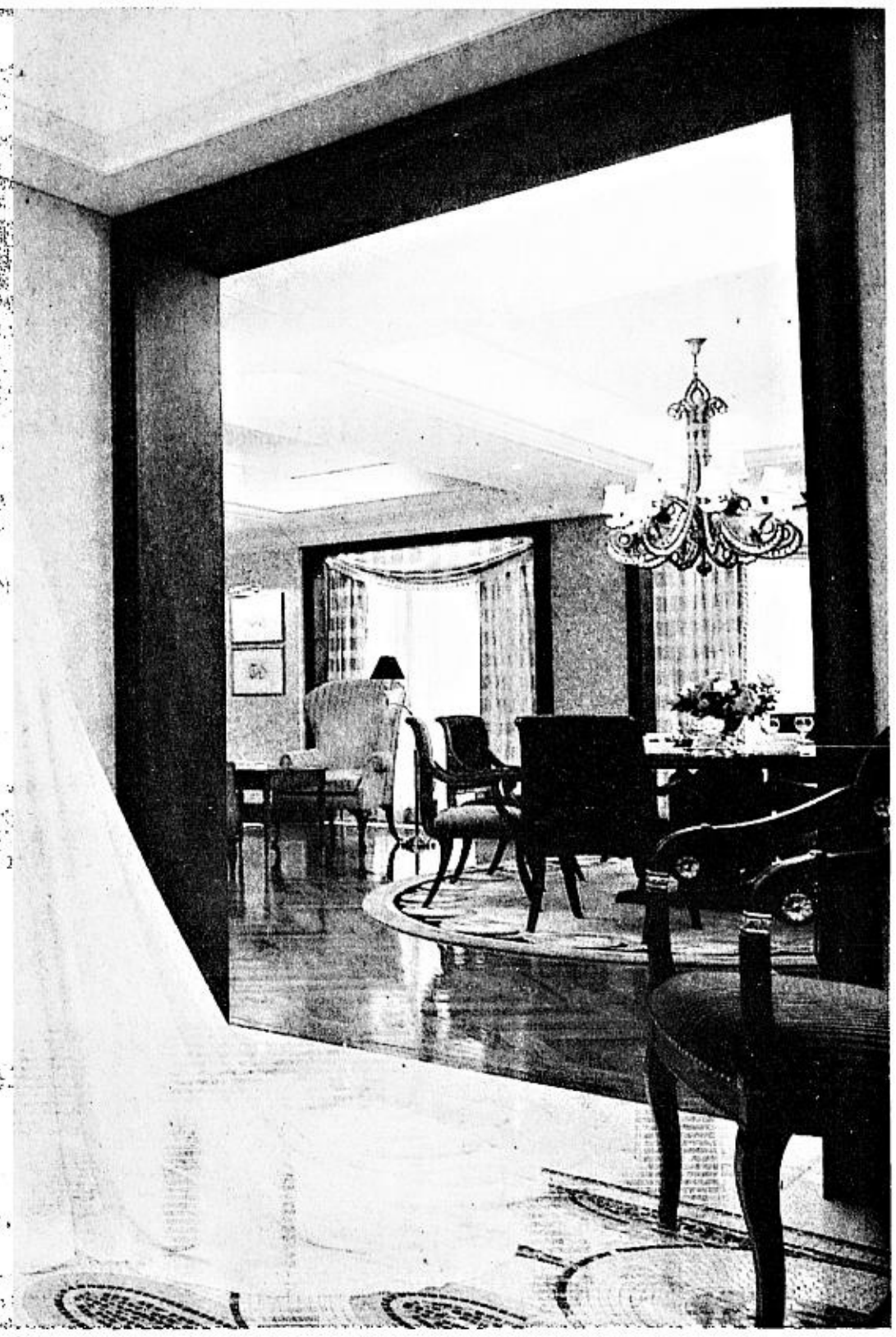
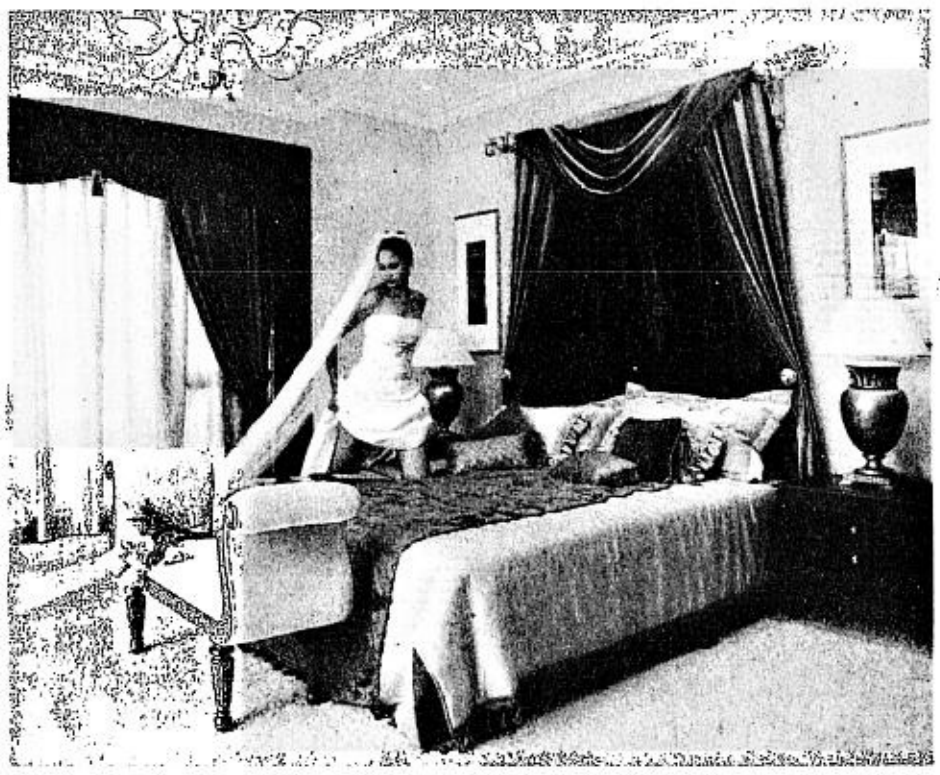


BRIDE kills time waiting for her groom at the foyer. The mosaic tile flooring picks up the color of the console.



NEOCLASSIC bedroom replete with heavy curtains, swags, jabots and passementerie

DINING area abounds with patterns. Cove lighting makes dining experience pleasurable.

A tower like no other

Similar development projects are bound to pale in comparison

By Avie Gochoco-Perez
Contributor
Photos by Ava Lugtu
Pictorial Direction by Albert Avellana

FOR people out there who are tired of hearing about yet another residential condo building rising in Makati, the promised elegance and majesty of the place that this high-end project offers might yet rekindle enthusiasm.

The Shang Grand Tower in Legaspi Village, Makati will not be ready for occupancy until early 2006, but the sales staff claims half or nearly half the building has been sold to its target market—"accomplished" individuals in their mid-50s, foreign or Filipino. The luxurious four-bedroom grand penthouse units, each priced at P54 million, have been among the first to go. Vince Formoso, vice-president and treasurer of developer Edsa Properties Holdings Inc., a member of the Kuok Group, merely smiles when asked about the identity of the buyers.

After only a year-and-a-half, work on The Shang has reached the fifth level, which will house the amenities—separate swimming pools for adults and children, a steam bath, a jacuzzi, a fully equipped gym, a steam bath, landscaped garden with water features, locker and shower rooms, and a multi-purpose hall.

In its entirety, the building will house 250 residential units and 470 parking spaces. The good news is, no one's going to feel cramped: at 80.26 sq.m., The Shang's single-bedroom unit is the biggest in the market today.

Realities, possibilities

Model units at The Fort paints realities as well as possibilities.

The possibilities include plush fabric on big sofas, chandeliers that drop to nearly waist level just because that is the Shangri-la way, windows draped in thick silk. Some of the realities: gleaming granite on kitchen countertops and underfoot in the bathrooms, Italian La Germania ranges with hoods, bathrooms outfitted with high-end HCG fixtures with toilet covers mechanized to drop, ever so gently, onto the seats.

Wood burl paneling alone on the wall of the three-bedroom model unit costs P18,000 per sq.m.—as much as a square meter of Ayala Alabang land today, says Rey Cometa III, senior sales specialist.

Development of the project will draw heavily from co-owner Edward Kuok's extensive experience in building high-rises worldwide—over 200 of them—although this will be his first crack at a local high-rise residential project. And because Kuok is to Hong Kong as Ayala is to the Philippines, expect what is loved in Hong Kong, what is beautiful in Hong Kong, to be fleshed out in the units. Even Hong Kong's partiality to high-rises without balconies has found its way into the project: there will be no balconies, except in the penthouse.

Similar projects are bound to pale in comparison.

Quiet home

Entry and exit can be accessed from two streets, Nieva and Perea, which hem in the property, along with De La Rosa. There will also be two lobbies for convenience, with three elevators serving each lobby. The driveways will be accented by two water features, for good feng shui.

The units are squarish for more space. They are no huge load-bearing beams jutting out of floors to obstruct movement or the view outside. "We didn't try to cut down on construction costs," Formoso says, "unlike others." Yes, even the bathrooms are a joy to behold—some have a view. The granite countertops and flooring gleam. In the very least, these bathrooms will be very low-maintenance.

Despite rising 46 levels high, The Shang will shun anything commercial. The description "completely residential" may be incredible for all that space in a highly commercial spot, but that is exactly what it promises: not a square meter allotted for commerce or trade. No ugly office spaces, no bridgeways or walkways to connect it to any commercial establishment, not even to its sister structure, The Enterprise Center, just two buildings away.

The idea is to have the tranquility, luxury and security of home despite being right behind Formoso's "Wall Street," or Ayala Avenue to most. The Shang Grand Tower will not sit in an outlying area, yet the building will have the quiet of one. Possible? Believe it.

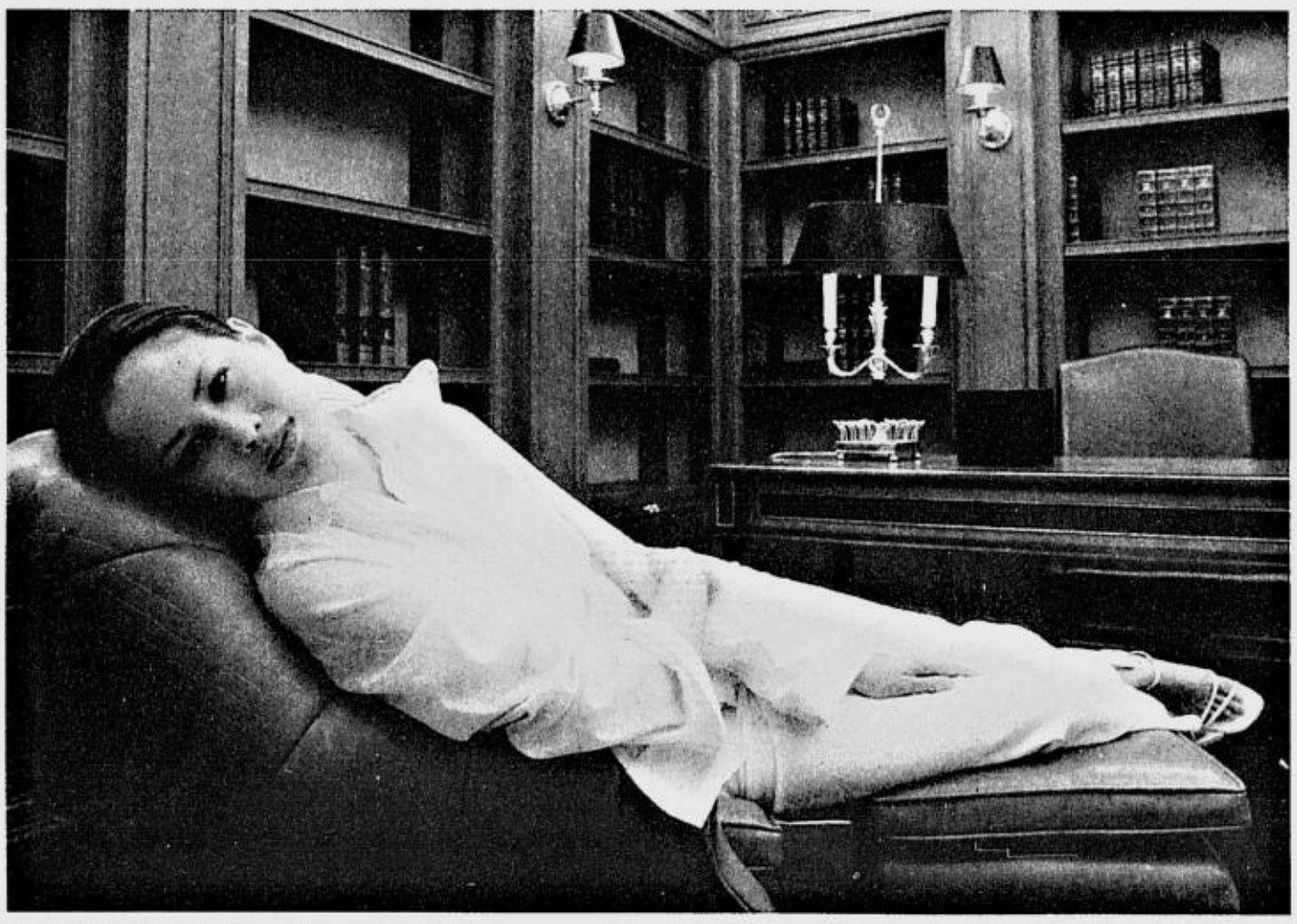
One might agree that the project's advantage is being so near the action yet so far from noise. The building will stand on nearly 2,900 sq.m. of land, and roughly 71,000 sq.m. of floor space will take the shape of a letter "Z," with a straight line in the middle.

Unit owners at the extreme ends of the "Z" will get the best deal: three views of the outside instead of the usual two. "That's another advantage we have over the rest," says Formoso.

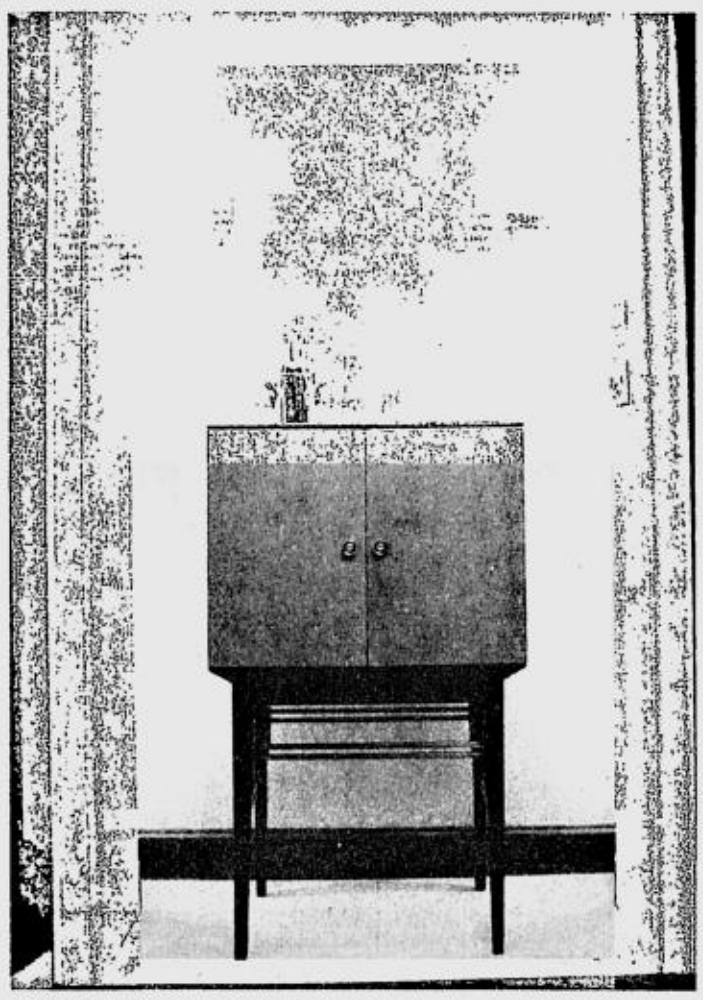
Cooler interiors

Residential units will start from the sixth floor because car parks will occupy the four basement and three podium levels. In the units, floor-to-ceiling height will be three meters, more than the usual 2.8

NEUTRAL color scheme is accented with gold, copper and burl wood for a warm feel. Classic elements such as columns, moldings, and recessed ceiling make the room more intimate.



ENGLISH-STYLE library completes the traditional look.



ALCOVE designed to display important pieces.

meters. This means a cooler interior for the residents. Also, this makes each floor of The Shang Grand Tower taller than its counterpart in the surrounding buildings.

Mainly, every level will have eight units. The "low zone" covering the sixth to the 26th floors will have two one-bedroom and six two-bedroom units. The "special high zone" from the 27th to the 30th will have the same number of units as the low zones. But this density is cut in half in the "high zone" from the 31st to the 42nd floors, with each unit having three bedrooms.

Unit sizes and prices (subject to a three percent increase this month ("because we've sold 50 percent already," notes Cometa) are: one-bedroom at 80.26 sq.m., from P6.4 million to P7.5 million; regular two-bedroom at 130-161 sq.m., P8.8 million to P11.9 million; de luxe three-bedroom at 237-274 sq.m., P11.6 million to P13.5 million; a three-bedroom suite with two parking spaces, P17.4 million to P19.7 million; and a three-bedroom grand suite, P19.7 million to P22.3 million.

The grand penthouses on the 45th floor—two four-bedroom units that come with four parking slots each—were presumably sold for P58 million apiece.

Formoso says a nine percent discount is allowed cash buyers. One-year, two-year and three-year financing terms with low interests are also offered. "In some cases, we can tailor the financing scheme to suit your cash flow," he promises.

Price per square meter at The Shang is about P80,000, says Eden C. Lin, Edsa Properties' vice-president for projects. Association dues are projected at P80 per square meter, although Formoso says Edsa Properties, through The Shang Grand Tower Condominium Corp., will "probably run" and maintain the building for "the first five years," sharing maintenance and management needs with Enterprise Center.

Cometa notes that The Shang buyers "love the (Makati Shangri-La) hotel, they know they will have the services of Makati Shangri-La, they can use its chauffeur service, maintenance of the condo will be of hotel standard, not just the typical janitorial service standard. There will be catering and laundry services, too, as the need arises."

Another factor that helps sell the project is the promise of avoiding the horrendous vehicular traffic to and from surrounding villages such as Bel-Air and Forbes Park. Still another is freedom from the burden of keeping a large staff to maintain a household in these villages.

Full blast

Lin confirms Formoso's statement that the firm, "anticipating good times," is going about the project's construction full blast. "Normally, people buy after the elections, when they think the market is at its lowest. This should be good for us."

The next project on the drawing board is a "medium high-end" residential high-rise project in Ortigas. To understand "medium high-end," Lin says, compare the amenities and services of, say, the Shangri-La hotels to those of the Hilton.

Formoso says "all the signs are there" for a market recovery that should help boost sales. "The Ayalas and Megaworld are not only continuing, but increasing, the pace of their projects," he says. Both developers are looking at the middle-income market but, owing to the "superior location" of The Shang Grand Tower, Edsa Properties is looking at the high-end market.

"We offer luxury right in the heart of Makati. That is our competitive advantage," he points out. "Ayala's One Roxas Triangle, for example, is in a more outlying area."

How about a guarantee that the units will be delivered on time? The Ayalas have always used their excellent track record in terms of delivery as a strong selling point.

"Construction of The Shang Grand Tower is fully funded," Formoso says. "We are not relying on pre-need sales to finish this project."

Meanwhile, one imagines home at The Shang Grand Tower: floors in "engineered wood" that may be more familiar to many as bleached Pergo flooring; tiles from Hong Kong; imported granite kitchen countertops; main doors in solid wood and veneered on the surface; picture windows in blue-green tempered glass in powder-coated aluminum frames; underground and overhead water tanks, a standby generator to supply 75 percent of the building's power needs—"almost that of the whole building," Lin points out.

Probably unique to this project is a singular feature on its main doors. To one side is a narrow extra door which opens to allow entry or exit of big items for the home. Cometa beams: "Very Hong Kong, very Shangri-la."

Location: Shang Grand Tower Model units, Fort Bonifacio
Model: Ana Lloren, Cal Carrie's Int'l
Clothes: Lya Armovit Bridal Wear
Hair and makeup: Dennis Tan
Wedding cake: Shortcrust Cake Shop by Peachy Juban

LUXURY hotels in Asia is one of Kuok's prime businesses.

World's 84th richest a 'gentleman' trader

Robert Kuok has also been described as simple and self-effacing

ROBERT Kuok placed 84th in the 2003 Forbes' list of World's Richest People, posting a net worth of $3.4 billion. His business empire includes the luxury Shangri-la hotel chain and real estate developer Kerry Properties.

Kuok was born on Oct. 6, 1923 in Johor Baru, Malaya, the son of a well-to-do commodities trader. His ancestors are from Fujian, China. After studying in Raffles College, Singapore, he joined his father's business and later founded Kuok Brothers Limited in 1949 in Johor Bahru, Malaysia. The firm traded in rice, sugar and white flour and invested in sugar refinery.

Upon Malaya's independence from England, Kuok established his business network throughout the new Malaysia, based on the business model of raw materials, processing and distribution. He also became savvy in commodities trading in London. By the 1970s he had become known as the "Sugar King," as he controlled up to 10 percent of the global sugar market. With his success in the sugar refinery business, Kuok established the largest flour mill in Malaysia.

He spotted opportunities at home and overseas and used his connections with political and business leaders to expand his empire. He forged many strategic alliances with other parties. He collaborated with the government to form a shipping company, hotels, (the most notable of which is the award-winning Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts), office buildings and convention centers.

Apart from enterprises in Malaysia, his sugar refinery, milling and hotels, Kuok's businesses also include animal feed, oil and mining, finance, trading, freight and media such as the South China Morning Post.

Kuok's Kerry Properties Limited was formed to hold the Hong Kong and Mainland China property investments and developments. KPL is noted for its posh residential properties in Hong Kong's Mid-Levels and is the largest warehouse owner and operator in Hong Kong. KPL's listed associate in the Philippines is Edsa Property Holdings Inc. whose business concerns are the high-end Shangri-la Plaza Mall, The Enterprise Center and The Grand Shang Tower.

The Kuok family has been guided by the values of discipline, integrity and loyalty, the very foundation of its success. Since his 40s, Kuok has used his "gentlemanly" manner of conducting business to become a force to reckon with in the industry. He has also been described as "simple, humble and prudent—someone who does not seek the limelight."

As Asiaweek once wrote: "Mr. Kuok is a true gentleman. He has the power to make his opponents yield willingly, and is a genuinely amicable man. He makes a personal effort to ensure that all his employees embrace this 'gentlemanly' way of conducting business."

BILLIONAIRE built his fortunes on the basis of integrity, loyalty and discipline.

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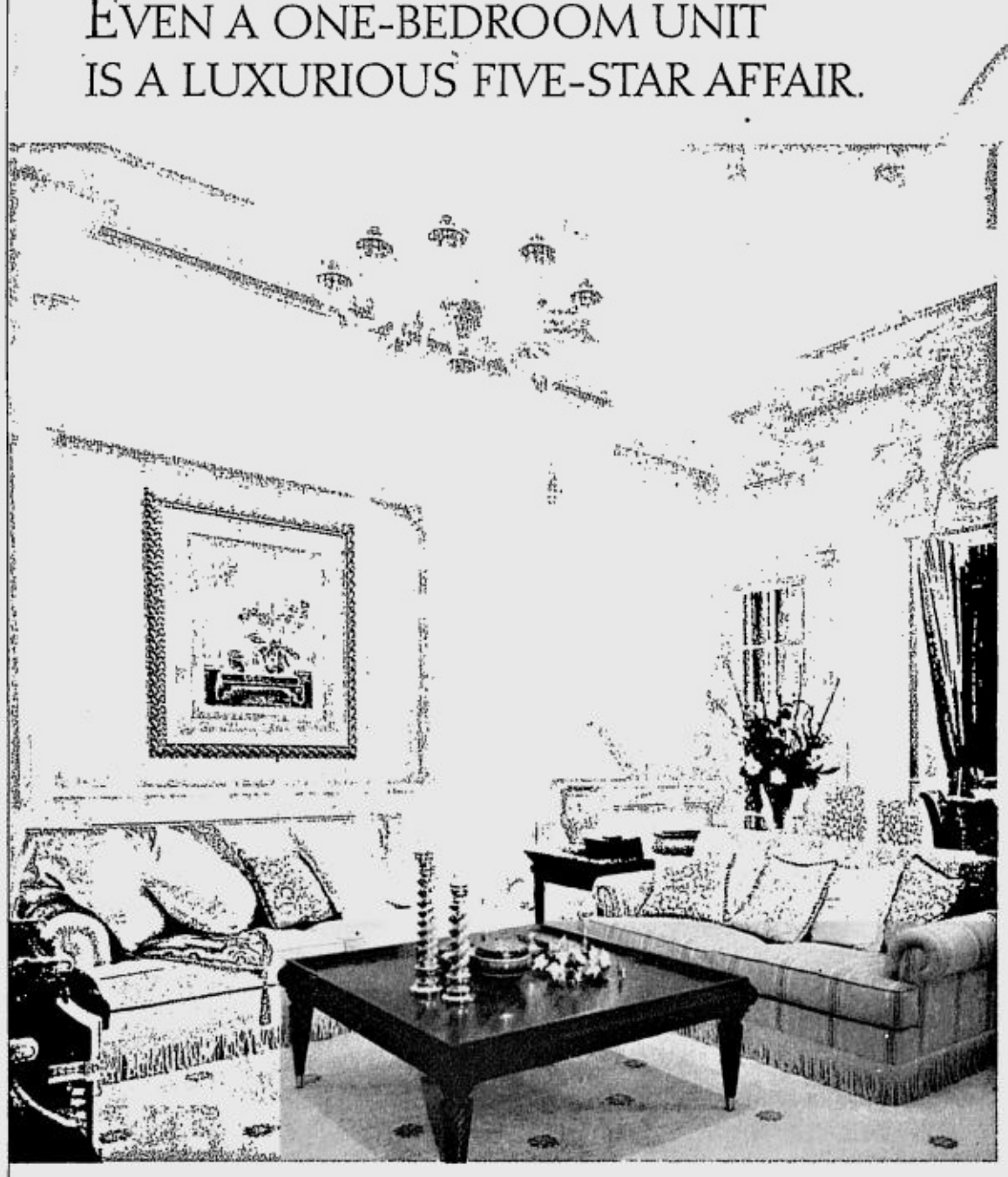

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SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre
Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

COPPOLA. From acting debacle to directorial triumph.

Sofia Coppola finds her true calling

By Nestor U. Torre

IN 1990, Sofia Coppola made her major acting debut in her dad Francis Ford Coppola's "The Godfather, Part III." She was given the plum role of Mary Corleone, which had been passed up by Winona Ryder.

Vapid actress

At first, Sofia looked like an interesting choice for the role—she was young, beautiful and had very expressive eyes. Unfortunately, she turned out to be a vapid actress, merely going through the motions of performing, but clearly wishing she was doing something—anything!—else.

Sofia was such a disappointment in the part that she "won" the Razzie Award as Worst New Star of 1991! (She was also nominated as Worst Supporting Actress for "Star Wars 1," and Worst New Star of the '90s!)

Oooh, that hurt. Especially since Sofia was a certified Hollywood princess, the daughter of the legendary director of "Apocalypse Now" and other significant films. But it looked like his artistic genes couldn't transfer from generation to generation—at least in the acting department.

Wide berth

So, Sofia was quickly regarded as a Frog Princess in desperate need of a handsome savior who would kiss her lack of thespic talent away.

Most other precocious failures would subsequently have given the movies a wide berth, but Sofia turned out to be made of sterner stuff. Bloody but unbowed, she studied at the California Institute of the Arts, developing her interests in video, costuming and photography.

She also wrote the screenplay adaptation of Jeffrey Eugenides' novel, "The Virgin Suicides," and convinced James Woods, Kathleen Turner and Kirsten Dunst to appear in her production of it, which she shot in Toronto, Canada.

When the film was shown at the 1999 Cannes filmfest, critics raved about it, effectively erasing the years of disdain following Sofia's ill-fated star turn in "The Godfather, Part III."

But what would Sofia do for an encore? First, she married director Spike Jonze, who soon made his mark with his own first film, "Being John Malkovich." Only in their 20s, Sofia and Spike quickly became known as Hollywood's youngest Power Couple, right up there with the Michael Douglases and Catherine Zeta Joneses of the movie world.

'Fated' strangers

Next, Sofia made her second film, "Lost in Translation," casting Bill Murray and Scarlett Johansson as two misplaced Americans who reach out to each other when they meet as "fated" strangers in Tokyo.

Sofia won Golden Globes for Best Screenplay and Best Comedy Picture for "Lost in Translation," and has been nominated for Best Director, Picture and Screenplay honors in the Oscar Awards that will be announced at the end of this month.

From the failure she was in 1990 to the sensation she is in 2004, it's been a wild roller-coaster ride for Sofia Coppola, who has found her true calling in films—not as a star, but as director, producer and scriptwriter.

For her youthful talent, determination and courage, we join others in hoping that she'll score a major upset on Feb. 29 and romp off with the Best Director statuette. Daddy Francis would be proud and delighted!

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If Only	100130		
Narito	100133	CIUDAD	ID NO.
Sa Iyo	100134	Dessie Belle	100198
Twin Hearts	100135	Monica	100200
FREESTYLE	ID NO.	STONEFREE	ID NO.
Before I Let You Go	100044	Baka Naman	100203
So Slow	100045	Listen	100204
VIVA HOTBABES	ID NO.		
Bulaklak	100137	WILLOWY	ID NO.
Hotbabes	100138	Juana	100205
Oops Ayl	100139	Lihani	100206

MOVIE LINES	ID NO.
Love Should Hot	100147
Magng Sino ka Man	100148
Nasa Puso Nasa Utak	100149
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PHILIPPINE DA

Tight race for acting honors at Oscars

By Rito P. Asilo

(Conclusion)

IF the best actress race is a tough, three-way fight among Charlize Theron ("Monster"), Diane Keaton ("Something's Gotta Give") and Naomi Watts ("21 Grams," scheduled for release locally next week, thank goodness), the fight among lead actors is even tougher.

Five films

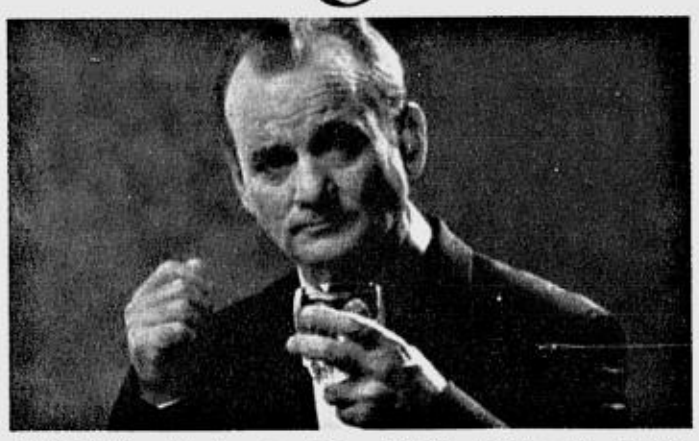
We have seen all five films for which Sean Penn ("Mystic River"), Bill Murray ("Lost in Translation"), Johnny Depp. ("Pirates of the Caribbean"), Jude Law ("Cold Mountain") and Ben Kingsley ("The House of Sand and Fog") were nominated for best actor. Second-guessing the winner will be a tough task this year.

Award-giving groups have chosen different names for best actress, although some winners didn't even make it to the Academy's final five. But these groups have been unanimous in choosing either Sean Penn (adjudged best actor by the Broadcast Film Critics, National Board of Review, Florida Film Critics and the Golden Globes for drama) or Bill Murray, who has won in practically all the other groups: New York, NY Online, LA, Toronto, Seattle, Boston, Florida, Washington, Chicago, San Francisco, Southeastern, Online Film Critics, the National Society of Film Critics and the Golden Globes' comedy category.

Penchant

Johnny Depp may have delivered a totally delightful performance that successfully fuses his penchant for quirky roles and Disney's commercial savvy in "Pirates of the Caribbean," but his competitors delivered equally significant portrayals in more substantial films.

Vadim Perelman's "The House of Sand and Fog" does not just showcase Ben Kingsley and Shohreh Aghdashloo's powerful performances. Ron Eldard and Jennifer Connelly should have been nominated, although Connelly seems fated to portray meaty but regrettably similar, tragic-heroine roles ("Requiem for a Dream," "A Beautiful Mind").



MURRAY. Plays his character in Coppola's "Lost in Translation" with wry, sad humor.

It is a searing morality tale about a recovering alcoholic (Connelly) abandoned by her husband eight months earlier. After ignoring warnings, she falls behind in the taxes for her home—a mere $500—and the county puts it up for auction.

Iranian immigrant

It is then purchased by Massoud Behrani (Ben Kingsley), an Iranian immigrant who was a colonel in the Shah's air force, but now works at two jobs to support his family. Behrani hopes to sell the house at a much higher price, planning to use the money he earns to "rebuild" his cash-strapped family—with dire results.

Painfully honest

The emotional and psychological turmoil of the film doesn't let up. When the closing credits finally roll, you feel like you've been punched in the gut. Kingsley comes up with a performance so raw and painfully honest that you forget how different he was in "Gandhi," for which he got an Oscar, or "Sexy Beast" (2000).

Jude Law's handsomely vulnerable mien is perfect for Anthony Minghella's sweeping dark tales of love and adventure. Law earned his first Oscar nomination when he portrayed the charismatic cad in the cult favorite, "The Talented Mr. Ripley."

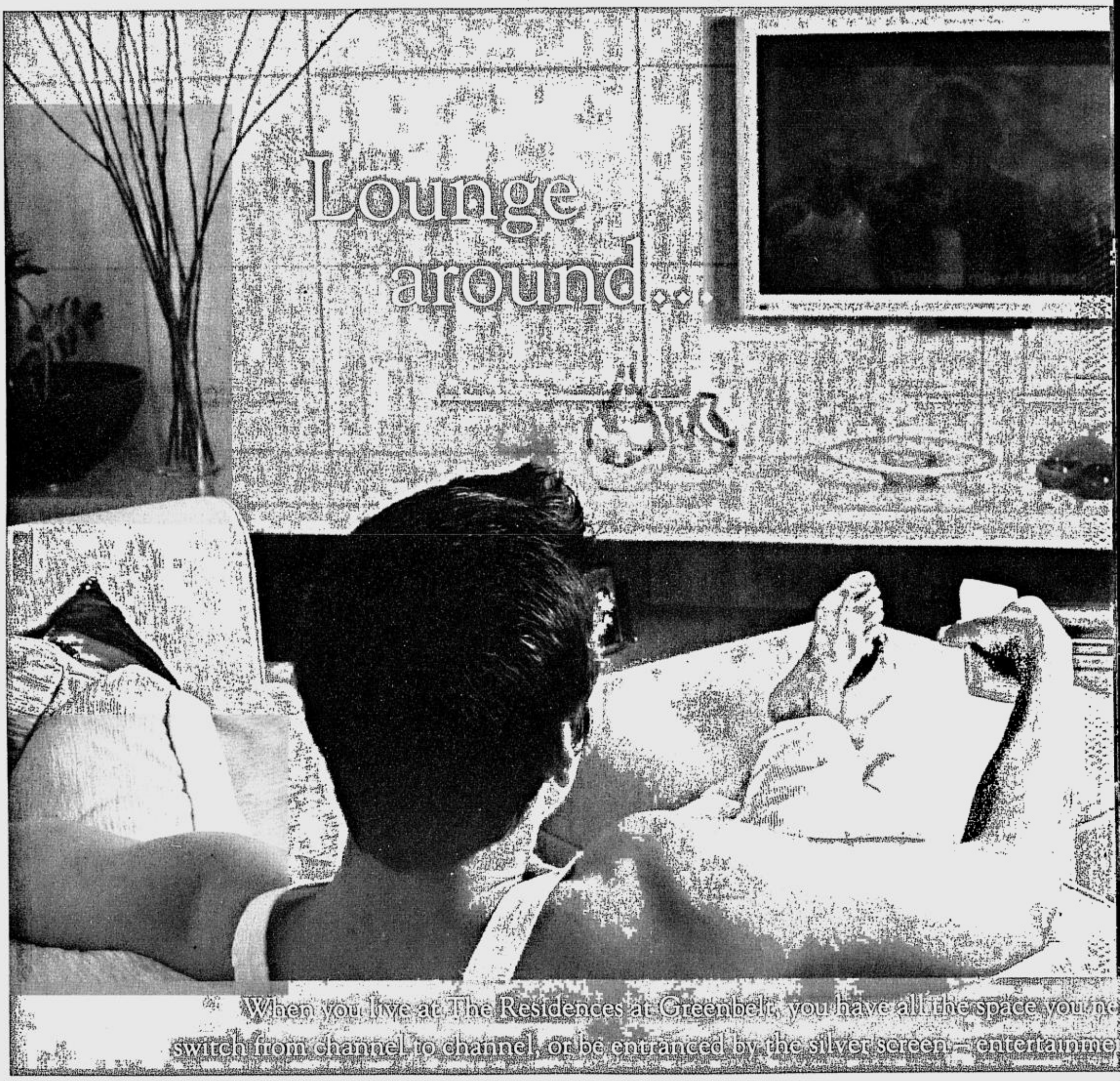
Like "The English Patient," "Cold Mountain," a well-told, beautifully shot, bittersweet Civil War romantic drama, is a polished, albeit protracted, adaptation of a bestselling novel. It is so gloriously shot that it sometimes feels like you're watching a moving canvas.

The gifted Minghella has perfected this genre through the years—this time with the help of earnest performances from Law, the versatile Nicole Kidman and the feisty, tough-talking, scene-stealing Renée Zellweger, who could give Marcia Gay Harden ("Mystic River") stiff competition in the supporting actress category. Harden won for "Pollock" three years ago.

Utter fascination

But the race is really between Penn and Bill Murray. We watched Sofia Coppola's "Lost in Translation" with utter fascination, and we could hardly believe that the movie (her second well-received directorial job) was written and directed by the actress who was unanimously reviled for taking

TIGHT/ D3



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ducers who are wom-
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MARGOT and Edith Gallardo want our songs to become popular in neighboring Asian countries.

York" by the group Chicago. I thought it was not applicable locally because we are not New Yorkers. Later on, I was given the liberty to choose the tracks for our playlist," she recalls.

As album producers, the biggest problem they face is gathering songs. "They have to jibe with the concept. We welcome suggestions and we settle certain problems by voting," Edith adds.

Margot points out that the inclusion of a revival is not a must, but it certainly helps push album sales because the song already has instant recall. However, two thirds of the album contents must be original compositions in order to qualify for the annual awards.

The biggest contribution of Edith to the music industry is her being a lyricist. She has collaborated with Moy Ortiz in "Pagdating ng Panahon," Babsy Molina in "Muntik Na Kitang Minahal" and Metropop winner, "Sometimes You Just Know" with Danny Tan.

Team

As a team, Margot, Edith and Moy have put up Pop Art Music, which deals with album producing, concerts and music publishing. They also do songs for movie themes or *teleseryes*.

Margot and Edith's wish for 2004 is to see Pinoy music flourish in neighboring Asian markets like Malaysia, Korea and Thailand. "We have sampled their music and even idolized their talents. I see no reason why they won't appreciate our products," Margot beams.

Tight race for acting . . .

From page D2

over Winona Ryder's role in "The Godfather, III."

Indeed, things have a way of turning around. And we're happy for this underdog who is finally reaping accolades. Of course, it doesn't hurt to have a father who can bankroll your artistic endeavors. Or, for that matter, to have Spike Jonze ("Being John Malkovich") for your inspiration during the filming.

Grieving father

In "Mystic River," Sean Penn's performance as a grieving father out to avenge the death of his daughter is truly moving. He makes his flawed character's motivation totally understandable and unnerving. When he sobs uncontrollably as he wails about his loss to Tim Robbins (also nominated, in the supporting category), he touches as much as he makes you wince.

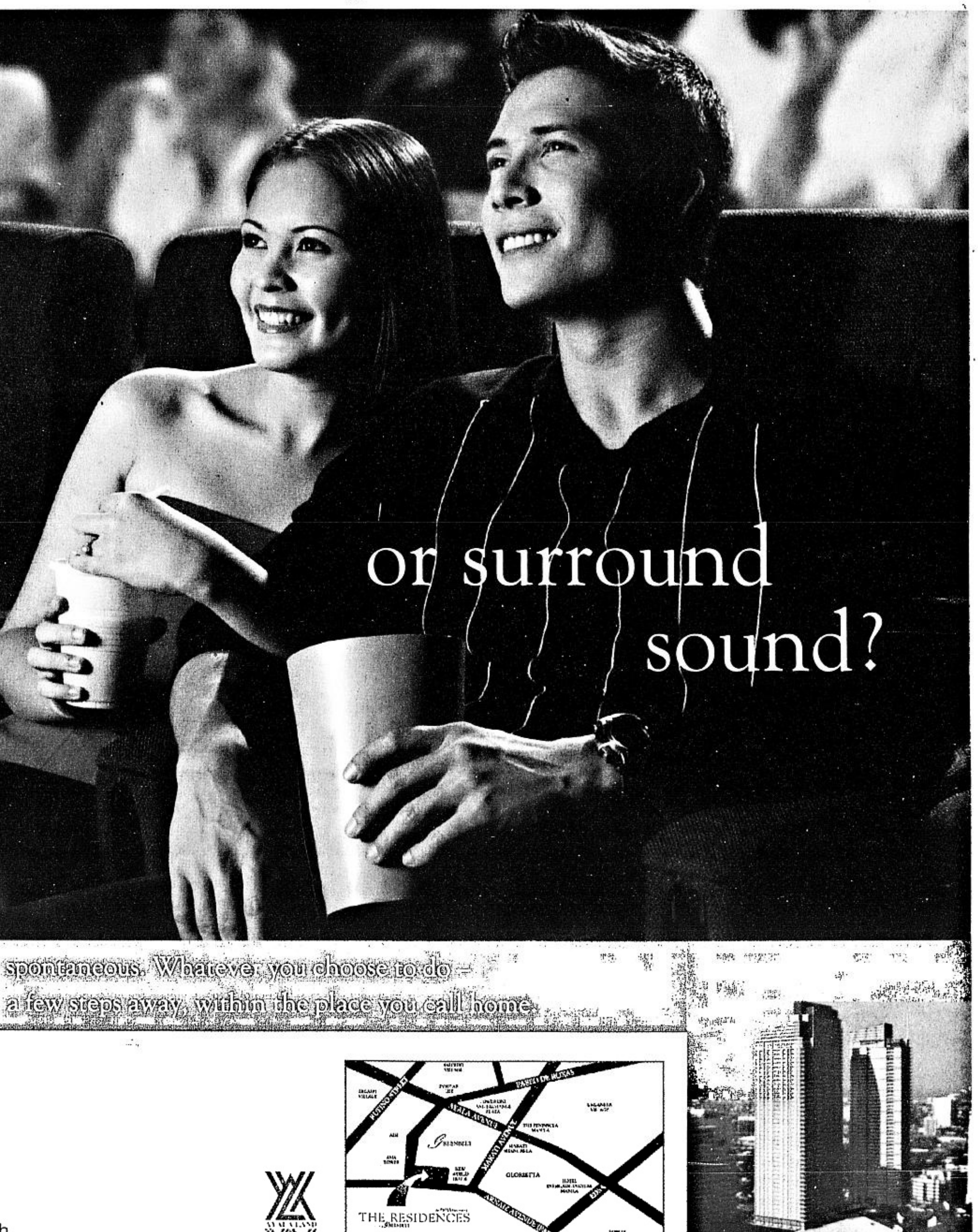
Bill Murray's advantage over Penn may be the fact that the character he plays with wry, sad humor in Coppolla's film fits him to a T—a world-weary, middle-aged actor who is flown to Japan to shoot a whiskey commercial that's going to make him $2 million richer.

He meets and forges an unlikely friendship with a married young woman (Scarlett Johansson, who deserves a nomination herself) during his short stay in Tokyo.

Bittersweet

"Translation" is brilliantly bittersweet and hilarious, and features haunting performances that will be remembered for years to come. The duo's final goodbye is heartbreaking.

Adrien Brody's Oscar-winning role in last year's "The Pianist" has yet to be shown here commercially. We hope that award-worthy performances will be seen by local audiences soon—because not everyone has the luxury of catching films abroad, renting or purchasing expensive DVDs (if available at all), or finding rare copies of the controversial screeners downloaded on the Net!



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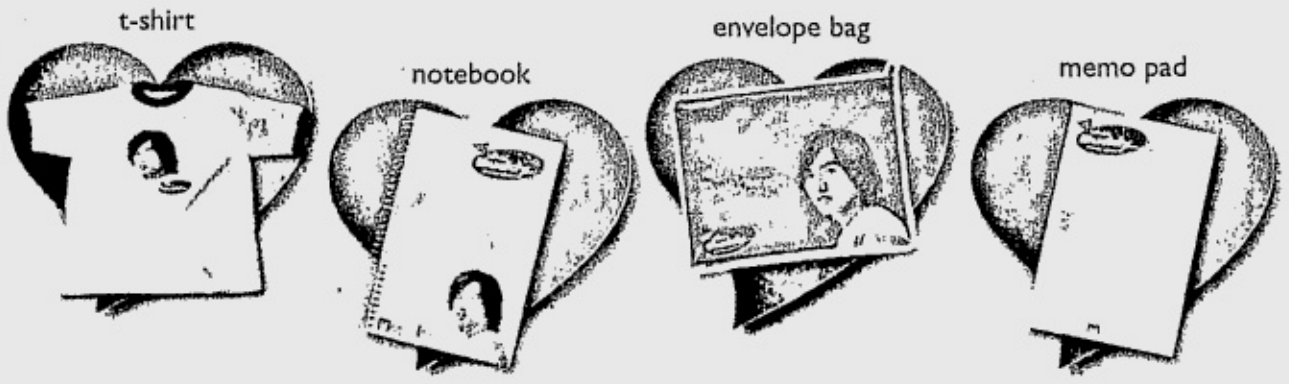

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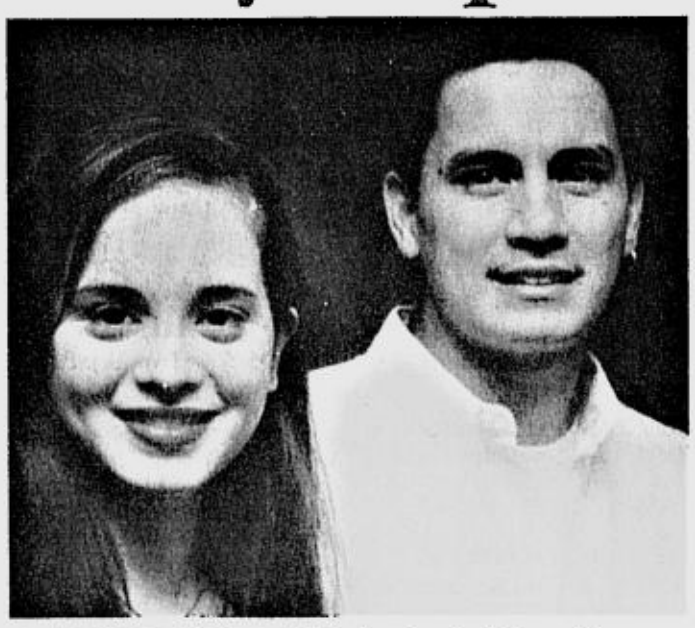
SATURDAY special

How celebrity couples celebrate Day of Hearts

By Jocelyn Valle

IT'S that time of the year once again when prices of flowers, chocolates and hotel accommodations suddenly zoom up.

Valentine's Day has become commercialized but some couples remain faithful to its true meaning:



RICHARD AND LUCY. Their Valentine plans include watching a concert and a trip to Boracay.

Commercials

Richard Gomez met Lucy Torres in 1991 when they were filming a series of TV commercials.

"When I met her," recalls the "S-Files" host, "I thought she was just an ordinary pretty girl. I never thought of asking her out on a date."

But he did six years later. "Through the years, our relationship thrived," Richard says. Thus, on April 28, 1998, the popular heartthrob ended his colorful bachelor days and vowed to spend the rest of his life with Lucy.

How did he know that it was time to settle down? He replies, "I simply met the right woman."

Their union is blessed with a pretty and precocious daughter, Julianna, whom they include in most of their activities, including celebrating Valentine's Day. "She's the product of our love," quips Richard, adding that his Valentine plans include taking his family to Boracay and watching Regine Velasquez and Ogie Alcasid's concert at the Araneta Coliseum. "I really like going to Valentine shows," he says.

Lawyer

Broadcast journalist Vicky Morales went steady with neighbor and corporate lawyer King Reyno, for two years before she exchanged marriage vows with him. "He said he'd take care of me," she explains when asked why she wanted to settle down with King. "To this day, he's been true to his word."

Vicky shares that she and her husband complement each other. "His legal expertise helps me in my investigative reports," she says. "He's also into current events, and we debate. I love exchanging opinions with him."

The couple shares their passion for traveling, eating out and music (King was Ogie and Dingdong Avanzado's batchmate in Kundirana).

Commitment

Bayang Barrios and Mike Villegas were on-and-off for 11 years before finally forging a lifetime commitment on June 10, 2002. "*Siguro, napagod na kami pareho sa awaybati*," she laughs. "We matured together as our relationship grew."

Being in the same field—music—has its advantages and disadvantages.

"We share the same passion *kaya nagkakaintindihan kami*," she explains. "During shows, *alam namin ang gagawin sa isang tingin lang.*"

But when one of them makes a mistake during a performance, the conflict is brought home. "'*Di kami nagbabati* for three days!," she laughs.

Bayang and Mike are usually out on Valentine's Day performing in shows, so they don't officially celebrate the Day of Hearts.

This year, Mike will be in Aiza Seguerra's concert, while Bayang will be performing solo at Conspiracy, a music bar that she co-owns.

Location

Mark and Lee Meilly crossed paths in 1988 at the LVN studios, where they were working on a Mike de Leon project. Lee was the production manager and Mark worked under her. "One of my first assignments was to a find a textile factory for a film location," he relates. "Then, she asked me to give her an itinerary. *Natapos na 'yung* project, *wala pa rin akong* itinerary. When we were together *na*, I told her *na 'di ko alam kung ano 'yung* itinerary!"

They tied the knot in 1994. They now have three kids. Mark has successfully crossed over from directing TV ads to filmmaking. Lee has found her niche in cinematography.

They understand each other's temperaments and moods. "What's nice is that we're able to extend our artistry to our kids. We have a creativity wall in our house, where we put up our kids' artworks, my sketches, my certificate from sushi-making school, etc!"

To escape the horrendous traffic on Valentine's Day, Mark and Lee usually celebrate the occasion a day earlier. "We give each other gifts," he says. "When I got my first salary as director, I gave gifted her with her dream watch. While she was sleeping, I slipped the watch around her wrist. When she woke up, *naghilamos s'ya, 'di pa n'ya napansin 'yung* watch!"

Zellweger says viewers want stronger women roles

BERLIN—Renée Zellweger says she believes there's a simple reason films are featuring stronger women characters—it's what audiences want.

"People making films are recognizing there is value in portraying female characters that way because audiences are interested, the American actress observes.

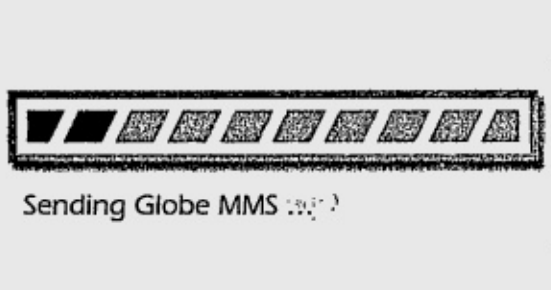
Beautiful stories

"They are beautiful stories. I think things are definitely changing." Zellweger, who won a best supporting actress Golden Globe and an Academy Award nomination for her brilliant performance in "Cold Mountain," says she and its star Nicole Kidman had became friends while shooting in Romania.

In the film, which also stars Jude Law, Zellweger plays a tough-minded mountain farm girl who befriends Kidman.

ZELLWEGER. Plays a tough-minded farm girl in "Cold Mountain."

Zellweger, 34, is currently filming the second Bridget Jones film. *AP*



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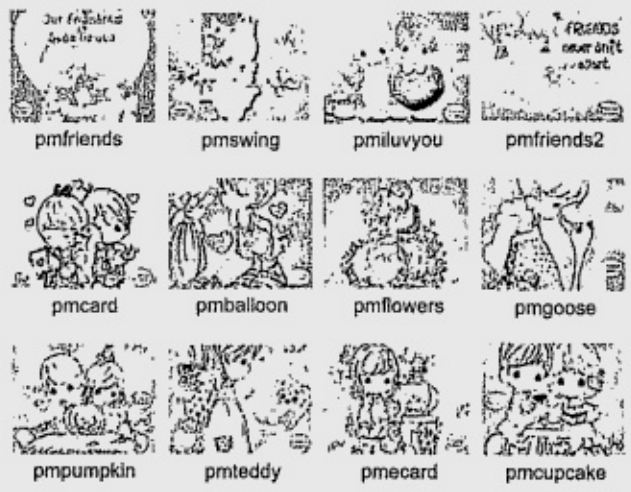

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"Love is an emotion. There are three kinds of love: 1. Agape—Unconditional love; 2. Phileo—Love of friends; 3. Eros—Sexual love: physical chemistry and lust."—*Jojo Zabarte, educator*

FLOIRENDO. "True love is spiritual and harmonious."

"Love is knowing your man will still be holding your hands till your very old age."—*Avie Perez, journalist and furniture store owner*

Unselfish

"Love is being sensitive to the concerns of your significant other more than yourself. It is the joy of making someone happy. True love is unselfish."—*Cristy Gatchalian-Buan, president, Philippine Exporters of Entertainers and Performing Artists*

"My definition of love has gone beyond words. Love is all there is."—*Jacqui Magno, jazz vocalist*

"Love is loving the person despite imperfections! Love is unconditional."—*Chari Lao-Bagatsing, mother, grandmother and civic worker*

"True love based on truth and wisdom is spiritual and harmonious."—*Margie Moran-Floirendo, producer, Bahaghari Productions*

(To be concluded)

E-mail the author at mn_photocom@i-manila.com.ph or mandynavaseropro@yahoo.com

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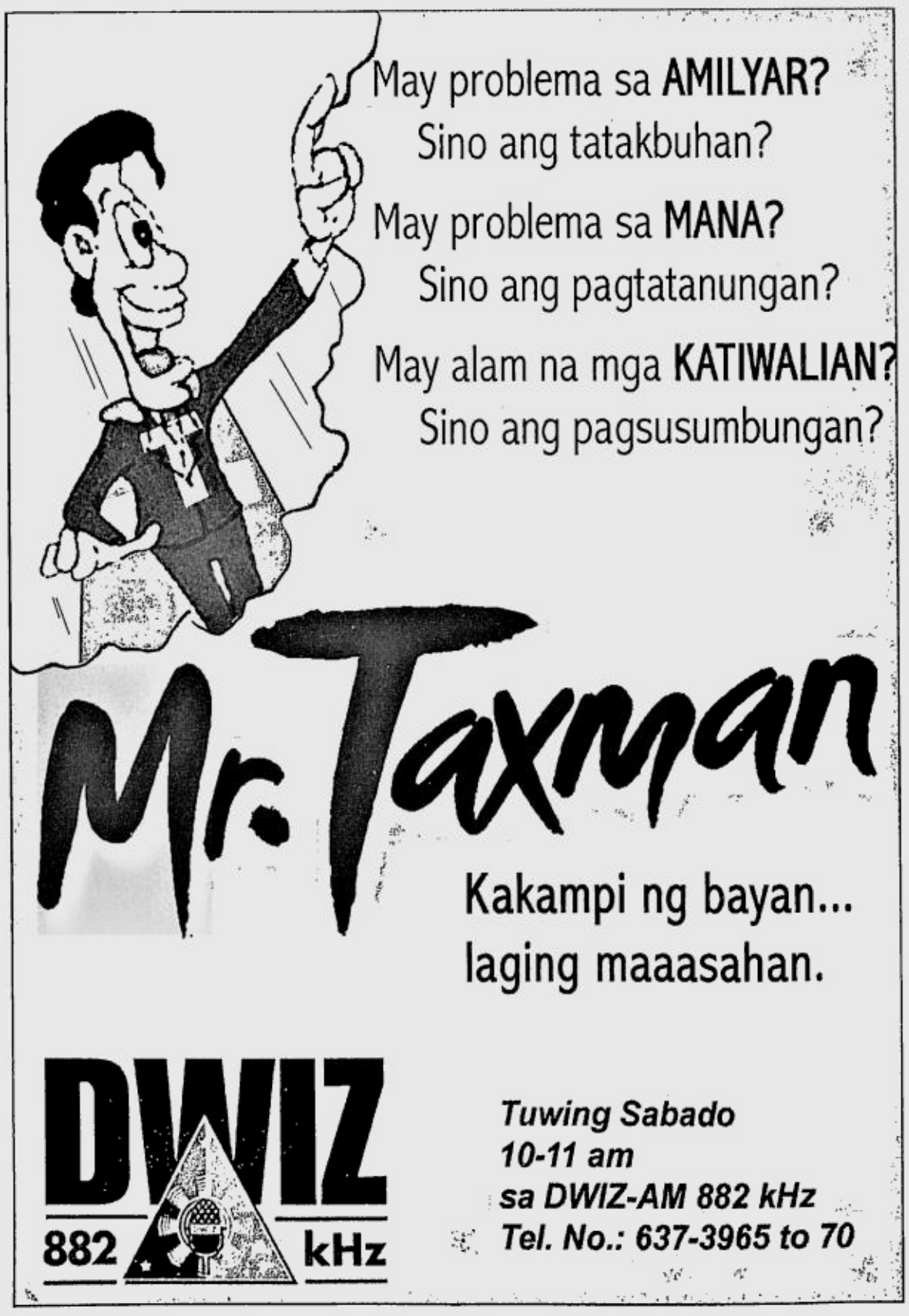

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"Love is turning the other cheek."—*Bernadine T. Siy, president, Fil-Pacific Apparel and The Roaster's Group of Companies*

"Love covers the entire range of a person's feelings—happiness, sadness, frustration, fulfillment and emptiness."—*Reli German, political and public relations strategist*

"Love is an emotion. There are three kinds of love: 1. Agape—Unconditional love; 2. Phileo—Love of friends; 3. Eros—Sexual love: physical chemistry and lust."—*Jojo Zabarte, educator*

"Love is knowing your man will still be holding your hands till your very old age."—*Avie Perez, journalist and furniture store owner*

FLOIRENDO. "True love is spiritual and harmonious."

Unselfish

"Love is being sensitive to the concerns of your significant other more than yourself. It is the joy of making someone happy. True love is unselfish."—*Cristy Gatchalian-Buan, president, Philippine Exporters of Entertainers and Performing Artists*

"My definition of love has gone beyond words. Love is all there is."—*Jacqui Magno, jazz vocalist*

"Love is loving the person despite imperfections! Love is unconditional."—*Chari Lao-Bagatsing, mother, grandmother and civic worker*

"True love based on truth and wisdom is spiritual and harmonious."—*Margie Moran-Floirendo, producer, Bahaghari Productions*

(To be concluded)

E-mail the author at mn_photocom@i-manila.com.ph or mandynavaseropro@yahoo.com

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'The Passion of The Christ' is Mel Gibson's most personal film

By Nestor U. Torre

MEL Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ," on Jesus' Crucifixion, is a self-funded film because major producers felt that it was an "uncommercial" and controversial project, and invited trouble.

CAVIEZEL. His portrayal of Jesus Christ dwells on His humanity and suffering.

Significance

But Gibson, a devout Catholic, was so convinced about its significance and positive effect on viewers that he sank $25 M of his own money into it, as well as 13 years for its gestation, five months for shooting—and all of his heart, art and commitment, every step of the arduous journey from conception to screening (starting on Feb. 25, Ash Wednesday).

What made him stick to his guns through all those years and low blows, including the brickbats the movie is now receiving from some Jewish organizations, which accuse it of fomenting hatred of Jews? Gibson was recently interviewed by Raymond Arroyo on the Eternal Word Television Network, and cleared up some key points:

No, Gibson isn't motivating viewers worldwide to hate Jews and blame them for the execution of Jesus Christ. Rather, *all* men are to be held accountable for the death of Jesus—and Gibson includes himself in the indictment.

Divinity

Yes, the movie has also disturbed some contemporary theologians because it dwells so much on Christ's humanity and his suffering, thus tending to deflect focus from his divinity.

But Gibson says he consulted a number of biblical experts, so his movie's exigetical foundation is secure. And the "human" approach was necessary to make Jesus' often abstracted story accessible anew to today's viewers.

Gibson describes "The Passion" as "my most personal film. It reflects my beliefs—I've never done that before." On the other hand, it is also "a career-killer," because of the controversy and risks attendant to the movie's production and imminent screening (in more than 3,000 theaters all over the world).

But Gibson says he's ready for anything, because he poured all of himself into his latest film, which could end up being hailed as his masterpiece.

Of course, the people who fear the movie's effect on viewers hope it will fail at the box office and in critics' perception, but Gibson is resolute. "Let them do their worst," he smiles. "They have no idea what stubborn means."

A key question: Has this film become his Passion as well? "Well, it has become uncomfortable—there've been so many delays, so yes, I did get a piece of it. But, now that it's finally finished, it all comes together.

Compensating factors

"And there've been many compensating factors: It's deepened my faith, as I hope it will also strengthen the faith of everyone who sees it. After all, I focused exclusively on it for such a long time—how could it not affect me in a deep way?

"But, I have to share this: I'm not sure that I was really the one who made this film. Throughout the shooting phase, I had a lung virus—12 weeks out of the 18 it took for us to shoot, I was down, dragging myself, forcing myself to shoot.

"That's why some of my crew members say, 'The Holy Spirit directed this film.' I'm not sure they're just pulling my leg!

"This project has had such an uphill struggle that a force larger than us was clearly at work here. On the other hand, a negative force was also evident, so the fight between good and evil took place within this production as well.

"But everything will be worth it once the film is shown. I want viewers to think, be affected, inspired, as we go back to the basic message of Christ's life and death!"

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Musicals celebrate what life should be

By Behn Cervantes

WHEN Hollywood comes to mind, we especially recall great musicals with singular stars of unequalled skill and beauty.

Unreachable

The more unreachable they seemed, the more the audience was enthralled by them. They moved, lived, dressed and behaved differently. When feet of clay were revealed, studios took immediate remedial steps to reinstate their idealized personae. Media in those days kept a distance, granted stars privacy and thus helped create images that lasted for decades.

Musicals elevated their stars to another world where words, music and dance were interwoven to create a new reality.

Entertainment factor

John Kobalt points to "fantasy" and "romance" as the natural directions of the musical genre. "Life is seen as a song—but it is also capable of handling satire, farce, sophisticated comedy and tragedy.

"SHOW BOAT," with Howard Keel and Ava Gardner, tackled the controversial topic of miscegenation.

Whatever the type, the entertainment factor will always be more important than any message—and that is how it should be!"

Fantasy and romance were reinforced by beautiful singing and tuneful melodies. Duets needed appropriate love teams to make the songs come alive. How else can we understand the great success of "singing sweethearts" Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy, and Gordon Macrae and Shirley Jones in the late '50s?

Highlights

No matter how beautiful the singing was, however, the musical would not be complete without great dance numbers that were always highlights of those grand films. The most successful tandem, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, exuded verve, elan and style in their movies.

While the musical's main intent was to entertain, it also got involved with larger issues. We need only remember the themes of Rodgers and Hammerstein creations like "Oklahoma," "Carousel" and "The Flower Drum Song" to realize that period musicals weren't all sweetness and light.

No siree, musicals and cotton candy were not synonymous.

Even the Kern-Hammerstein classic, "Show Boat," defiantly tackled the taboo topic of miscegenation. "Evita" focused on the life of a controversial woman, both adored and vilified in her native Argentina, while "Jesus Christ Superstar" gave a new sound and beat to musicals.

Recent blockbusters "Moulin Rouge" and "Chicago" had edge, sting and a contemporary feel, no matter if they were allegedly "period pieces." Obviously, the love for musicals has not waned. It only needs modern treatment, credible plots and talented stars.

Musicals celebrate not what life is, but what it could and should be. It is fantasy built out of a concrete and recognizable reality!

NINA. Dabbles in songwriting.

Nina has a lot to smile about

By Noelani Torre

(Conclusion)

AS THE P.Y.T. teen girl group's average age doesn't go beyond 20, their material, though fun, tends to be lightweight—and "A Girl Can Dream" is no exception. Nevertheless, Nina interprets the song in her new album with aplomb, and what the song lacks in depth, it makes up for in melodic catchiness.

Softer

Other previously-heard tunes in this album are Madonna's "Shoo-bee-doo" and Boy Katindig's "I'll Always Stay In Love This Way." The former is from the Material Girl's 1984 "Like a Virgin" period. Nina's version is softer and sounds more R&B, and is one of the catchier cuts in this album.

"I'll Always Stay In Love This Way" is already a classic and has been interpreted not only by Boy Katindig, but also by the Side A band. It is arguably the best song in this album, and our favorite. It showcases Nina's soft voice perfectly, and she does justice to its easy rhythm and hook-laden refrains.

The singer dabbles in songwriting in this album—she wrote the lyrics to the 10th track, "Can't Say I Love You." Unfortunately, basing our judgment on this song, it doesn't look as though Nina has much of a future as a lyricist.

Faint praise

Not that it's a horrid song, it's really quite acceptable, but it's not particularly distinguished—and that's what you call getting damned with faint praise. Its sentiments are worded too prosaically, and there are one or two instances of faulty grammar.

There are 12 songs in "Smile," none of them space-fillers or lengtheners (her previous album had a couple of remixes that seemed suspiciously like extenders). Most of them are soft and gently rhythmic—the sound that fans and listeners have come to expect from the "soul siren."

All in all, this is a smoothly-produced album, polished enough to give it an even keel, ensuring smooth sailing all throughout. Of course, the fact that Nina has genuine, non-studio-induced talent doesn't hurt its chances, either. It makes for ideal listening for those lazy post-dinner hours, or for lounging around in a smoky bar (not exactly the sunny fields depicted in the CD inlay).

Therapeutic . . .

From page E3

already been written about ACV, so we will only summarize its main uses: Its potassium content helps reduce high blood pressure; beta-carotene helps fight cancer-causing free radicals and boosts the immune system; boron helps metabolize bone-builders, calcium and magnesium; insoluble fiber reduces cholesterol.

Red wine vinegar contains polyphenols known to inhibit formation of cancer-causing carcinogens.

Two minerals

What about rice vinegar? Orcy says, "While rice vinegar, unlike apple cider and red wine vinegar, is not high in potassium, it is higher in phosphorus and calcium—two minerals your body needs." Rice vinegar contains amino acids which help balance the pH in the body.

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Tones

Song Titles	Artist	Keywords
You And I Both	Jason Mraz	LUV34
I'll Do Anything	Jason Mraz	LUV35
Remedy (I Won't Worry)	Jason Mraz	LUV36
Sleep All Day	Jason Mraz	LUV37
Absolutely Zero	Jason Mraz	LUV38
No Stopping Us	Jason Mraz	LUV39
On Love, In Sadness	Jason Mraz	LUV40
Boy's Gone	Jason Mraz	LUV41
Jealous	Nina	LUV1
Foolish Heart	Nina	LUV2
Loving You	Nina	LUV3
Heaven	Nina	LUV4
Make You Mine	Nina	LUV5
A Girl Can Dream	Nina	LUV6
What If	Nina	LUV7
Sayang Naman	Nina	LUV8
Goodnight But Not Goodbye	Nina	LUV9
I'll Always Stay In Love This Way	Nina	LUV10
Still Gonna Be	Nina	LUV11
Can't Say I Love You	Nina	LUV12
Smile	Nina	LUV13
Because Of You	Keith Martin	LUV14
Groovy Kind Of Love	Phil Collins	LUV15
How Do I Live	Trisha Yearwood	LUV23

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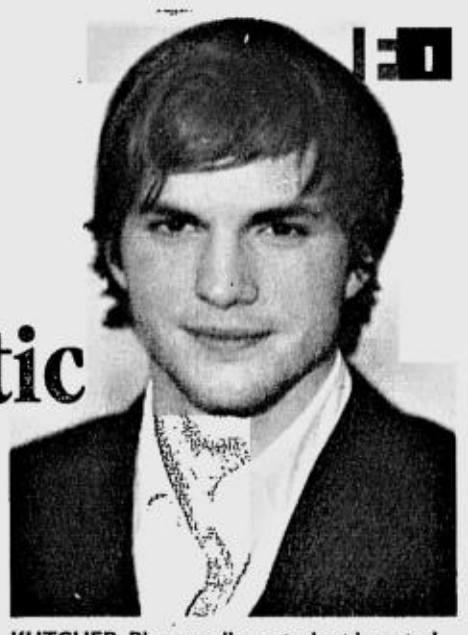
SATURDAY special

Ashton Kutcher goes dark and dramatic



KUTCHER. Plays a college student haunted by repressed childhood memories in "The Butterfly Effect."

PARK CITY, Utah—It's a grand tradition, actors best known for playing the goofball taking their shot at serious thespian status.

Tom Hanks. Robin Williams. Bill Murray. Steve Martin—Ashton Kutcher?

Lovable dimwit

Yes, even the lovable dimwit from "That '70s Show" is showing off his dramatic chops, starring in the dark and convoluted thriller, "The Butterfly Effect," which played at the Sundance Film Festival before it opened at No. 1 theatrically in the United States.

"I don't want to get bored," Kutcher, 25, told the Associated Press at Sundance.

Different

"I don't want people who come to see my movies to think they know what they're going to get each time, because I want to keep doing something different and keep it interesting," he said.

In "The Butterfly Effect," Kutcher plays a college student haunted by repressed childhood memories who learns he can travel back in time to inhabit the body of his younger self and undo traumatic events. In doing so, though, he finds the fabric of his present life unraveling in ghastly new ways.

The movie also features Amy Smart, Eric Stoltz, Melora Walters and William Lee Scott.

Depth and range

Kutcher shows depth and range many might not expect from an actor who's specialized in acting the fool in "That '70s Show," 2000's surprise minihit, "Dude, Where's My Car?," last year's newlywed comedy, "Just Married" and the current hit, "Cheaper By the Dozen," in which he had an uncredited bit part.

Actors who broke into Hollywood in antic comedy roles often try branching out in more sober projects, with varying success. Hanks went from silly to sublime, following "Splash," "Bachelor Party" and other light comedies with back-to-back Academy Awards wins for "Philadelphia" and "Forrest Gump" and becoming one of the heavyweight leading men of his generation.

Williams evolved from frenzied

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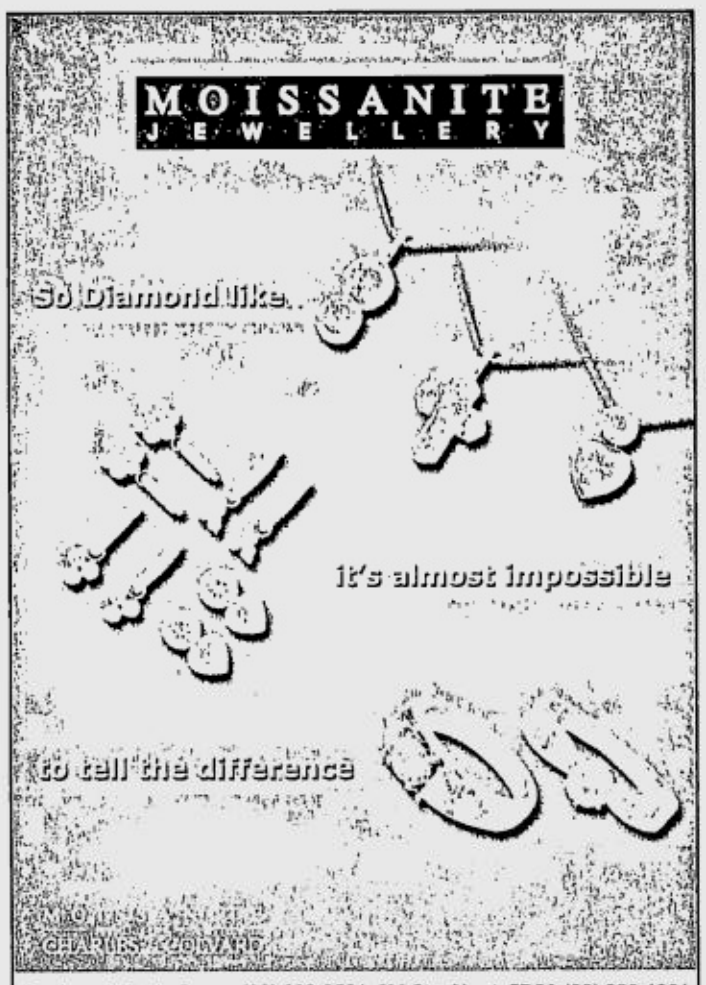

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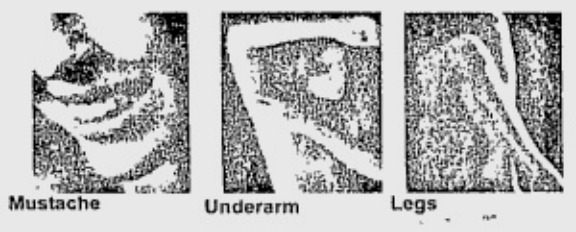

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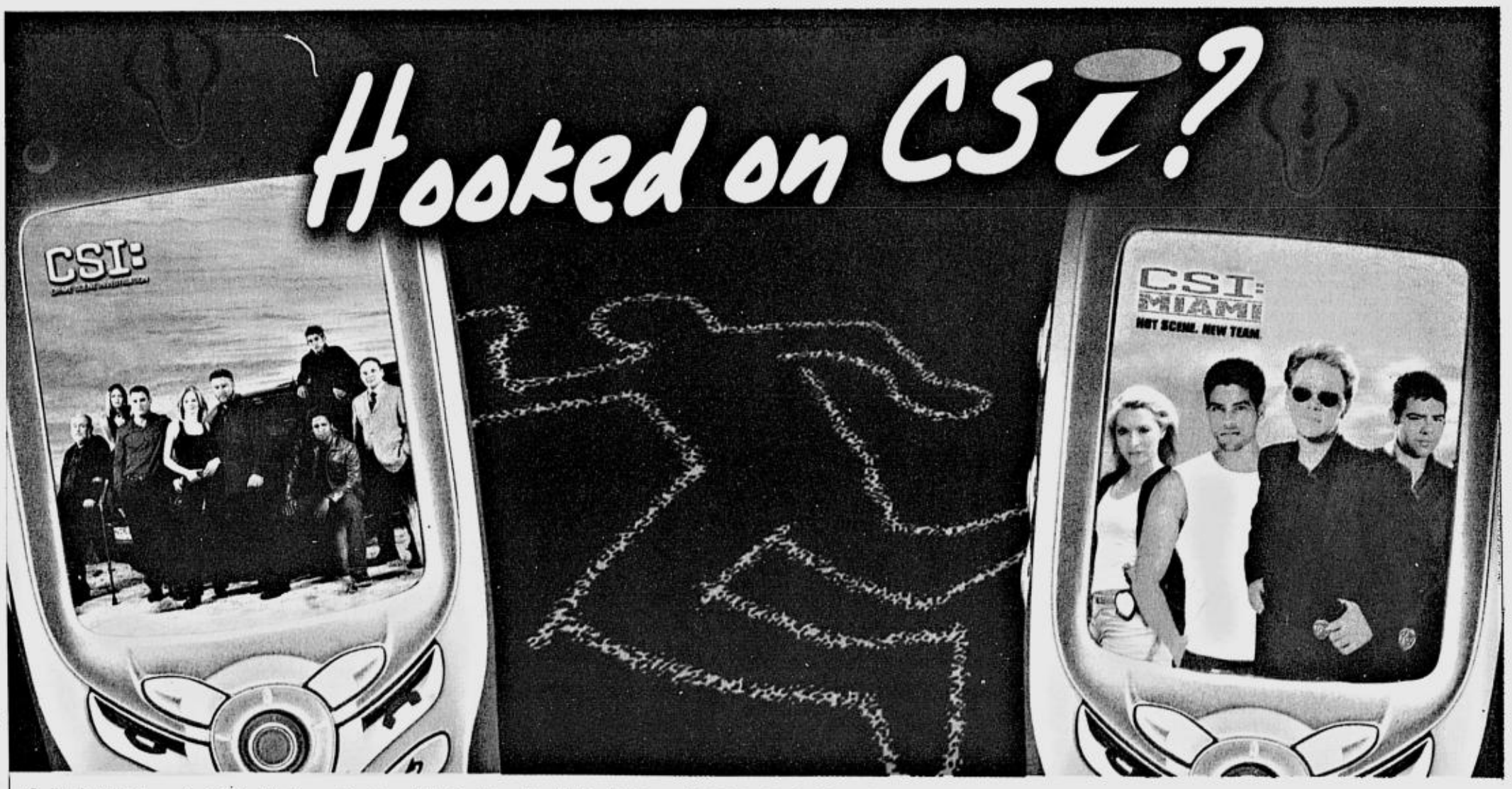

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DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are unusually witty, entertaining and charming. People enjoy being in your presence. In part, this is because you know how to make others laugh. Nevertheless, you are disciplined about pursuing your own goals. You work hard for what you want. You can do things with speed and concentration. Work hard this year for rewards in 2005.
Birthdate of: Gregory Hines, dancer/actor; Raymond Teller, illusionist/entertainer; Florence Henderson, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You feel quite independent today. You might even ask yourself how much you need others in your life. But always remember: No man is an island.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You might feel full of self-doubt today. You might lack confidence. This is just a passing moment where you feel more self-criticism than self-love.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You might have difficulty relating to others today. Naturally, this will lead to loneliness or depression. (This is just a passing dark cloud on your horizon.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might imagine that bosses, VIPs and parents are critical of you today. These things happen! Don't beat yourself up about it. You can't please everyone all the time.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Don't worry if you feel discouraged about travel or school plans. Ditto for matters connected with publishing. Things will change very soon.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is not a good day to ask for a loan, help or assistance, or to borrow anything from anyone. Others are not forthcoming today. (People are just wrapped up in themselves today.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Don't expect too much from partners, loved ones, close friends or even bosses and parents. Relationships are strained today. That's just the way the cookie crumbles.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're better off working alone today. Don't expect favors from co-workers. On the other hand, be patient with others, because they need sympathy and understanding.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): It's easy to think that a romantic relationship is worse off than it is. This is a day where your worries are unfounded and unrealistic. Relax. Be soft with your self.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): It's important to realize that there is a limit to what you can expect of others, especially family members. Fortunately, there's a limit to what they can expect from you!

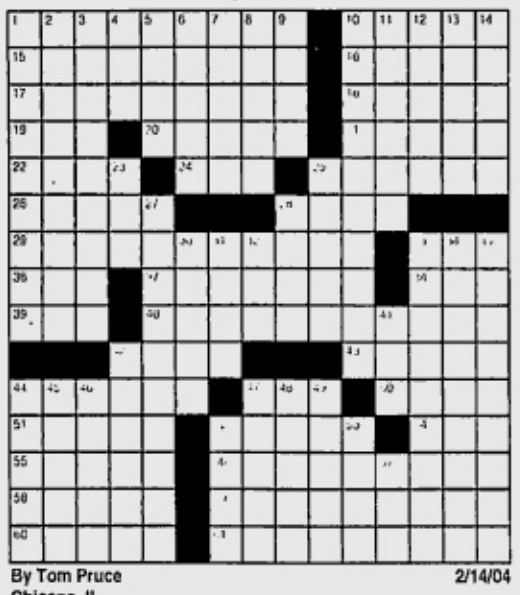
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Don't worry too much today. A passing dark cloud might create pessimistic feelings or a defeatist attitude within you. But this is not who you really are!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Money worries might bother you today. Suddenly, you feel broke, even though your financial situation hasn't changed in the past two days. It's just your point of view.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 "I think, therefore I am" man
10 From now to then
15 Like an insecure jail
16 __ Jean Baker
17 Fall guy
18 Conceptions
19 Sidekick
20 Tears
21 Sudden thrust
22 Vogue competitor
24 Get the point
25 Miss a beat
26 Streetcar tracks
28 Model Moss
29 Teen years
33 Young Scot
36 Half a score
37 Stringed keyboard instrument
38 Lincoln or Burrows
39 Wynn and McMahon
40 "The Coal Miner's Daughter" inspiration
42 Obligation
43 Misplaces
44 Head of a convent
47 Dispirited
50 Wise guy
51 The 4 Seasons singer Frankie
52 "The Three __ of Eve"
54 __ Luis Obispo, CA
55 Muse of lyric poetry
56 Goddess of love
58 Showed again
59 Middays
60 Lock of hair
61 Flagrancy

DOWN
1 Like a last resort
2 Scaled, as a rampart
3 Young onions
4 Tam-o'-shanter or beanie
5 Mimic
6 Violent tirades
7 Butcher's offering
8 Put on cloud nine
9 Matched collections
10 One-sided
11 Protuberance
12 Stoke-on-__, England
13 Public persona
14 SDI weapon
23 Plumbing joint
25 Aspect
27 Periods of voluntary isolation
28 Contract in wrinkles
30 Openings for coins
31 Grant of Hollywood
32 Eden's woman
33 Abandons
34 Renounces
35 Thick quality
41 Spanish article
42 Greek letters
44 Ward off
45 Having less coverage
46 Blast from a trumpet
47 Quality of taste
48 Sneeze
49 Bruce and Laura
52 Hollow tooth
53 Barstool dropoffs
57 Noisy disturbance



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL
2/14/04

Friday's Puzzle Solved

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Let's help raise funds for the CCP

By Nestor U. Torre

"MAGSIMULA KA," left, and "Magnificat" are the two acclaimed musicals being taken on fundraising performance tours by the CCP's Outreach department.

PEOPLE constantly bewail the low level of culture in this country, but few of them do anything about the problem. In fact, only a handful bother to patronize cultural presentations and support artistic projects in the first place. No wonder the problem is so immense, and seems to resist solution.

Insensitive

Some government people are insensitive to the need for genuine cultural transformation. This is because they don't see the connection between culture, attitude, values and progress. They think culture and the arts are luxuries and escapist diversions, not realizing that culture in fact determines who we are, and what we aspire to be.

That's why, every year, government investments in and subsidies for culture and the arts get continually de-prioritized, in favor of investments in businesses and jobs. Our planners don't realize that workers and businessmen aren't moneymaking machines and automatons, but complex human beings who are much more than the sum of their parts.

Aside from muscles and bank accounts, they have hearts and minds that must be encouraged to grow, to be motivated, challenged and inspired, and it is education and culture that develop these all-important parts of their total make-up.

Institutions

That's why institutions that develop and disseminate culture and the arts should be adequately supported by the government. If that support is lacking, as it is here, private organizations and individuals should make up for the slack.

That's' why, this year, we are bent on helping raise funds for the important artistic projects of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. We have been made aware of the CCP's funding deficit, and we believe so much in the importance of its cultural contributions to the country that we're trying to do our modest but earnest share to add to its coffers, so it can perform its tasks in the areas of cultural dissemination and arts education.

We have mounted two acclaimed stage musicals, Ryan Cayabyab's "Magnificat" (on the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary) and Gines Tan's "Magsimula Ka" (on young graduates), which are being taken on performance tours by the CCP's Outreach department as fundraisers for our cultural center.

Popular

We hope that your school, parish or organization will sponsor performances of these two popular musicals in your locality, to help generate funds for the CCP. Please call Patchie Ignacio or Sonny Cristobal at CCP Outreach (833-0267) or Andy Bais at 713-9323 and 0919 206-5424.

By no means are we the only people trying to raise funds for the CCP. Late last year, the country's visual artists donated their works which were sold at an art auction at the lobby of the CCP's Main Theater, raising close to a million pesos for the cultural center to use this year.

We hope that your own organizations can think up other ways to generate money for the CCP, to fund its important projects in 2004. As individuals, we should also increase our patronage of the CCP's many cultural activities. Truly, the cultural renaissance we all profess to want begins with us!

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Come to our GRAND OPEN HOUSE TODAY

Ashton Kutcher . . .

From page D1

stand-up comic to Oscar winner for "Good Will Hunting," while former "Saturday Night Live" star Murray is a best-actor contender for this month's Oscars. Success in dramatic roles has eluded other top funny men, including Martin and Jim Carrey.

More solemn

A more solemn Kutcher could be a tough sell for his fans, considering the filmmakers behind "The Butterfly Effect" initially were appalled at the thought of him starring in a movie they had struggled to make for seven years.

"We thought, no way is 'Dude, Where's My Car?' going to be in our movie that we've been fighting for for all these years," said J. Mackye Gruber, who wrote and directed "The Butterfly Effect" with Eric Bress. "We've been trying for seven years, and what, we're going to have him?"

First meeting

Bress and Gruber went to Kutcher's house reluctantly for a first meeting after the actor's name came up. Instead of sitting down with the "That '70s Show" doofus, the filmmakers "did a complete 180," finding that Kutcher had meticulously dissected their script and had an exhaustive grip on the story and character, Gruber said.

"Thad truly believed he was the character he played on TV," Bress said. "When we first met Ashton, he was such a different person than I expected. You're looking for that character from TV and he just wasn't there. Everything he had to say, all his questions about the script were so insightful."

Smarter

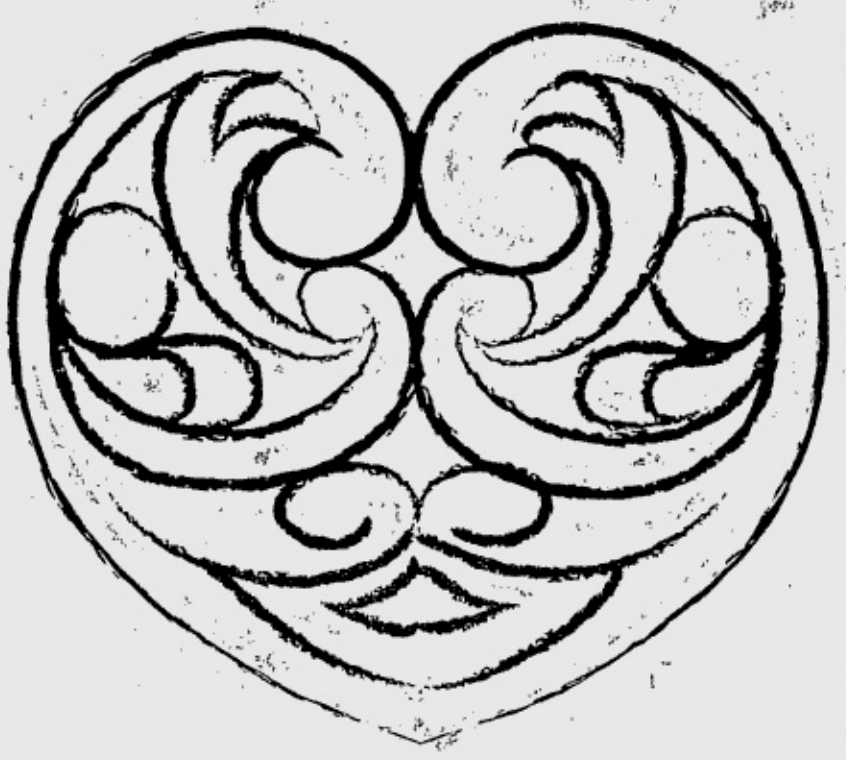
"Smarter than any other actor we looked at," Gruber said. "We left his house thinking, well, we feel a little stupid now. We found our guy!"

The acting chops of comic actors often go overlooked, Kutcher said.

"I think people really underestimate the difficulty of comedy," Kutcher said. "When you do a dramatic piece, you've got a hundred different emotions that you can get out of your system, that you're striving to get out of the audience.

"When you do a comedy, it's just one thing. If they don't laugh, you fail." *AP*

charm hearts this valentine's
at the jewelry fair of Greenhills Shopping Center.



get free ice cream when you shop on Valentine's!

Beginning Feb. 6 to 29, GSC will feature 300 stalls dressed up in the finest Maranao decor - offering the widest array of affordable jewelry and fashion accessories, from beads to pearls, to silvers and golds. Plus, get a free ice cream treat when you shop with your date on Valentine's!

Charm your way to a loved one's heart at GSC, the Valentine shopping authority.

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Sabado misses you.

She barks every time I call you. She'd jump on the bed and snuggle next to me, excited to hear your voice.

Sabado's really big now. No way she'd fit in that heart-shaped box you placed her in so many Valentine's days ago.

It is Valentine's again and again it falls on a Saturday.

Once again, we have our date over the phone.
With Globe 40c IDD, I forget you are oceans away.

I imagine you beside me, but it's only Sabado, who's already snoring and the sun is already rising.

We end the call but we don't say goodbye.

puppy love©

Globe International Services keeps the love alive this Valentine's.

Globe IDD lets you call any country, any time with one flat rate, US$ 40 cents per minute.
To call, just dial (+)(country code)(area code)(phone number)

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To text, send message to (+)(country code)(mobile number)

Globe International MMS enables you to send photo and video messages to more countries, including Japan.
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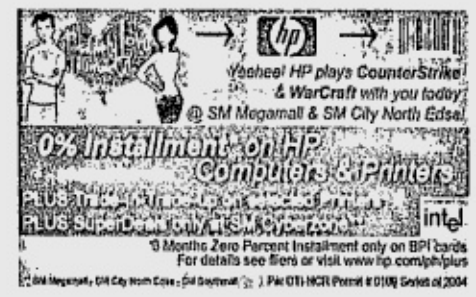
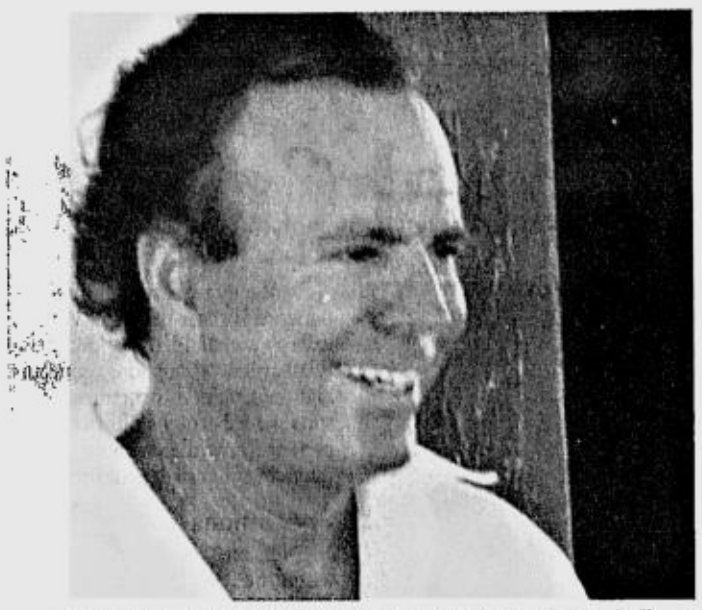
SATURDAY special



Julio Iglesias is still singing songs of love

SURFSIDE, Florida—At 60, Julio Iglesias is still pining for love.

Passion, emotion, a smooth voice and sex-symbol status have made Iglesias the best-selling Latin male artist ever. But he says it's his fans' love that drove him to record a new album.



IGLESIAS is on a promotional tour for his new album, "Divorcio." AP

Mansion

"When you get to the 35-year mark in your career, you make albums for your fans to love you more, so they don't forget about you," Iglesias told The Associated Press during an interview at his waterfront mansion on an island north of Miami Beach.

The father of seven—including singing sons Enrique and Julio Jr.—is on a world tour for his album "Divorcio," his first since "Noche de Cuatro Lunas" in 2001.

The title may seem strange for a lover, but the album's songs—Iglesias' trademark ballads plus lively cumbia and Caribbean rhythms—refer to divorce from worldly possessions, old acquaintances and bad memories.

"Divorcio" sold 200,000 copies in Spain the day it was released, adding to Iglesias' career total of more than 250 million albums sold.

Alexandra Lioutikoff, senior vice president of Latin American membership for The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, said the worldwide market for Iglesias is "guaranteed."

Popularity

Iglesias' popularity peaked in the 1980s with the album "Julio" and the hit duet with Willie Nelson, "To All the Girls I've Loved Before."

Iglesias' ability to sing in English set him apart, opening doors for him among American listeners.

Iglesias is supremely confident when talking about his 35-year career:

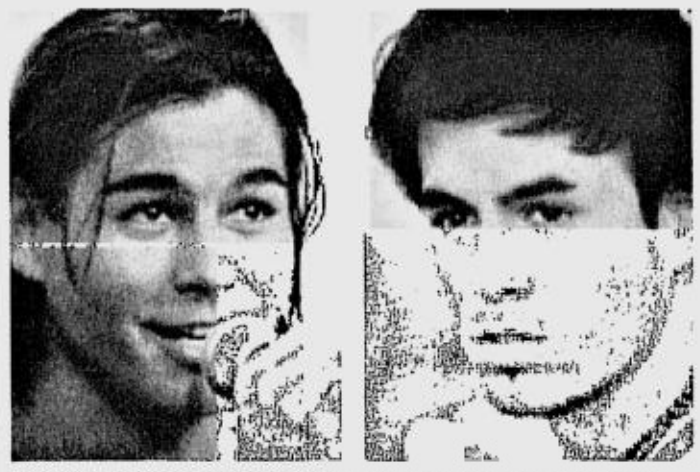
"I'm the Latin artist who has been the most successful in history at representing the Latin culture.

"I have spread 'Latinism' from Finland to China . . . and I never want to lose that privilege."

But reaching the heights of Latin music wasn't always on Iglesias' mind.

Dream

As a young man, not only did he get a law degree, but he also pursued a dream of playing soccer for Real Madrid as a goalkeeper. However, his short-lived sports career ended when a serious car accident left him unable to walk for two years.



JULIO JR., left, and Enrique share their father's "tremendous love for the public."

During his recovery, Iglesias wrote poems and set them to song, and the erstwhile soccer player who was rejected by the chorus in his Madrid high school fell in love with music.

First time

He landed his first recording contract and hit No. 1 in Spain for the first time in 1968.

Iglesias finds it rewarding to have stuck around this long. But he's concerned about how he looks. He works out regularly and keeps trim.

But Iglesias, ever the symbol of composure, nearly lost his wits in December on a Mexican television program.

Lip-syncing "El Bacalao," Iglesias suddenly felt a cramp inching his way up his calf and thigh. One pause would inform the world he was not really singing.

Iglesias kept going in what he described as one of the toughest moments of his career.

On the move

Iglesias is always on the move, bragging that his "life is as fast or faster" than sons Enrique and Julio Jr., two of his three children from first (and only) marriage. He's selling his Surfside home for about $20 million as he spends more time in his Dominican Republic estate.

He has four younger children with companion Miranda Rijnsburger, and Iglesias is finding himself watching his babies grow up again. His twin daughters were born in May 2001.

"The love for both generations is the same, but you try to avoid the mistakes you made in the past," he says.

Several publications have written that the relationship between Enrique and his father is strained, partly because dad didn't get involved early in his son's solo career. Julio Sr. admits he has never seen Enrique perform live, saying their busy schedules haven't coincided, but insists talk of problems is overblown.

Success

"The success my children have had has helped me immensely," Julio Sr. says. "I've shown them respect and ambition for this career.

"They've become popular, and they show a tremendous love for the public. They're professionals."

Popularity is something that Iglesias has become accustomed to: "You retire when you are sick and when you can't do it any more or when the public retires you. That's the most painful, because that's the one that leaves you wanting to accomplish more." *AP*

Charlize Theron says 'Monster' is about the acting, not her looks

BERLIN—South African actress Charlize Theron recently said she was tired of the focus on her remarkable physical transformation to play the role of a serial killer in her acclaimed movie, "Monster."

THERON. Career-making performance. AP

Nearly unrecognizable

After presenting her film in the competition at the Berlin film festival, the appearance of the stunning Theron wowed many journalists. She rendered herself nearly unrecognizable for the part of a real-life highway prostitute turned serial killer.

But Theron, who has been nominated for her first Oscar for the role, said her decision to put on weight and wear prosthetic teeth to play Aileen Wuornos was only a small part of a career-making performance.

"Everybody tends to make this correlation that if you go ugly you'll get an Academy Award," she said.

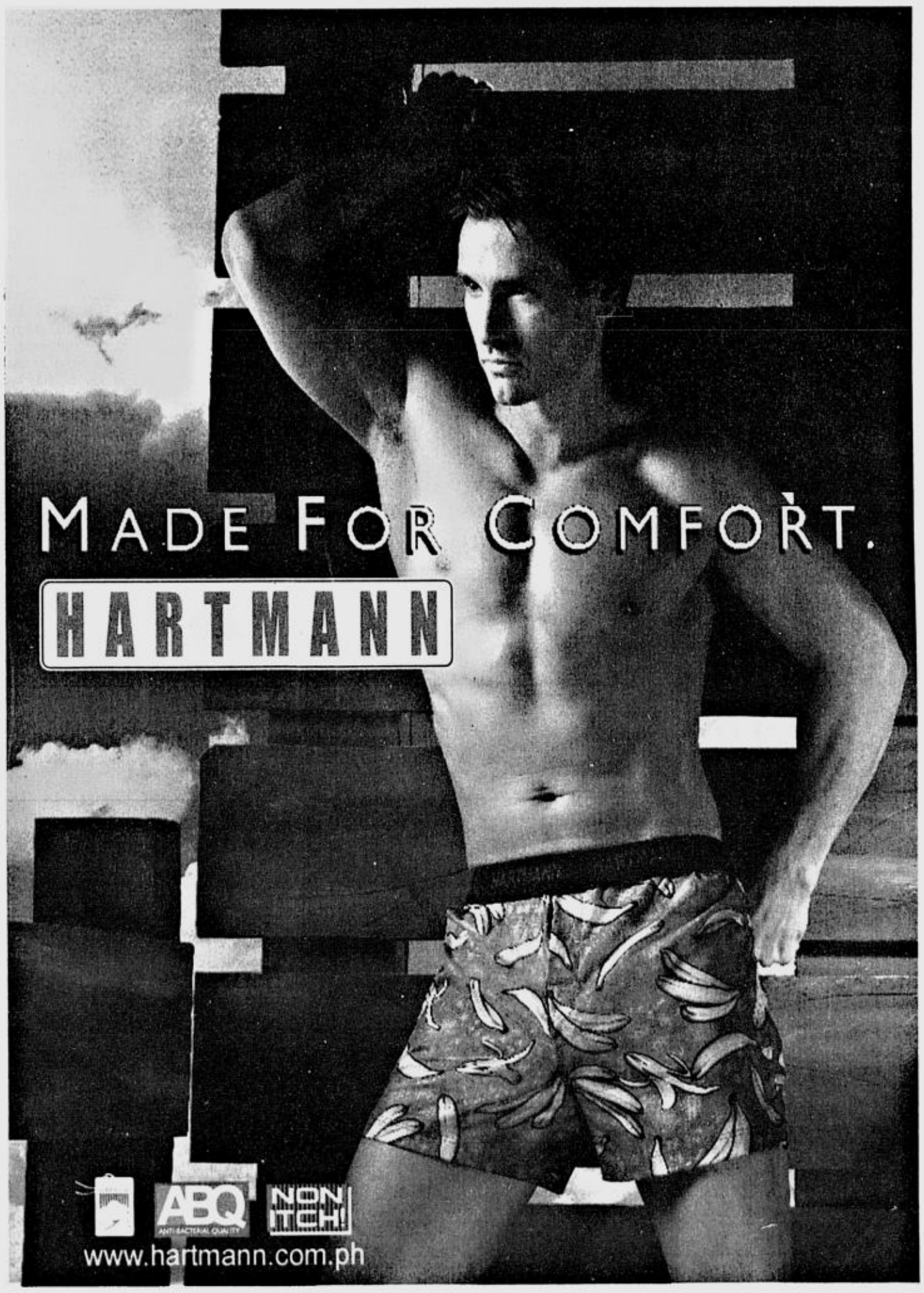
"Transformation is just one aspect to it." Better-known as a co-star in such films as "The Devil's Advocate" and "The Cider House Rules," Theron dominates the independent production.

She said the attention the film has received in the United States had opened doors for her.

Different light

"I hope that more filmmakers will see me in a different light," she said after being greeted by cheers from the international press corps after the screening.

Theron, who also produced the picture, said she had worn the false teeth to immerse herself in the role while doing research with director and screenwriter Patty Jenkins in Florida, where Wuornos was executed in 2002 for the murder of seven men. *AFP*



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Travel has enriched Michael Crichton's life

By Ronald G. Mangubat

MICHAEL Crichton, the father of techno thrillers, comes from a family of inveterate travelers. As a child, he says, they were practically living in suitcases, hopping from one place to another.

Adventures

For years, he toured exotic places like Borneo, Pakistan, Ireland and Tanzania. It was only during the late '80s that he wrote his travel adventures which, he proudly admits, have enriched his life.

If you're wondering how the writer of "Jurassic Park," "Congo," "Disclosure," "Sphere," "Rising Sun," "Timeline" and the creator of the TV series, "E.R.," got his brilliant and dazzling ideas, read his autobiographical book, "Travels" (Ballantine Books, August, 1989, 417 pp.). This book will convince you that burning curiosity, thirst for knowledge and an itch to travel can do wonders for people who have the passion to express themselves in words.

Medical doctor

Crichton is an anthropology graduate from Harvard (summa cum laude), and was also a medical doctor before he shifted to writing novels and screenplays, and directing films. His academic training gives his novels the intellectual and scientific gloss which has impressed his readers. But it is his travels that provide the heart and soul of his popular oeuvres.

In "Travels," Crichton first recalls his medical studies at Harvard, his life as a physician and how illness convinced him to abandon medicine and make the radical shift to writing. "In quitting, " he says, "I was following my instincts. I was doing what I really wanted to do."

In the next three-fourths of the book, Crichton takes his readers on his globe-trotting adventures, recalling how he climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa but never made it to the top, how he stared at the Mayan pyramids in the Yucatan, dived into the shark-infested seas of Tahiti, was attacked by gorillas in Rwanda, smoked pot in Bangkok, was almost doubled-crossed by a swindler in Jamaica, tracked wild animals in Malay jungles—etc.!

His travels made him see the world from a wider perspective and made him understand humanity in deep, desultory ways. He explains:

CRICHTON. Father of techno thrillers.

"I eventually realized that direct experience is most valuable. Western man is surrounded by ideas, and bombarded by opinions, concepts, and information structures of all sorts, so it becomes difficult to experience anything without the intervening filter of these structures."

Phenomena

Crichton surprises readers when he delves into new age stuff, describes his spiritual sojourns and gives his opinions on such phenomena as spoon-bending, fortune-telling, life on the astral plane, auras, etc. Non-believers and skeptics might get turned off by his passion for "psychic smorgasbord," but for people open to other-dimensional truths, the book's last part would just be the right way to end "Travels."

As Crichton recalls his adventures, he also analyzes himself and his relationships. He talks about his awkward and ambiguous feelings towards his father, his failed marriages, the maddening and egocentric world of show business, and even his love-hate relationships with animals.

Inner journey

Unlike most travel books that simply describe picturesque places, Crichton goes on an inner journey toward self-discovery, revealing details about his temper, desires and urges.

Crichton has sold over 100 million books, which have been translated into 30 languages. Twelve of those books have been made into films.

Clearly, his travels have paid off!

Meg Ryan fights back in boxing movie

LOS ANGELES—Meg Ryan has learned a thing or two about being on the ropes in the past three years, but she was an ingenue when it came to boxing.

Brief romance

Divorce, a brief romance with former bad-boy actor Russell Crowe and her last movie outing in the sexually explicit murder mystery "In the Cut" overturned Ryan's image as the bubbly, blue-eyed romantic comedy actress that made her America's 1990s movie sweetheart.

But her upcoming boxing movie "Against the Ropes" taught her more than she bargained for both about the sport and her own place in the Hollywood ring.

"I think there are a lot of analogous things between the boxing world and Hollywood. They are very, very happy to put you in a box and say this is meant for you and not this. Particularly, if you look a certain way, you can be judged immediately," Ryan, 42, told reporters.

Ryan was both irked and surprised at the reception last year for "In the Cut," in which she played several steamy nude scenes, noting that only seven of her 30 or so movies have been romantic comedies. She played an alcoholic wife in "When a Man Loves a Woman" and a stripper in "Hurlyburly."

RYAN. Plays against type in "Against the Ropes."

Comedies

"I learned on the last movie out that there is definitely a very particular idea (of me) that people don't want to give up. Fine. I'm happy to do comedies but I'm an actor. I'm going to try to do all kind of different things," she said.

"Against the Ropes," sees Ryan again playing against type as the real and larger-than-life female US boxing manager Jackie Kallen.

Journalist

Kallen switched from a career as a journalist in Detroit in the 1980s to become the best-known and one of the most successful female boxing managers in history.

Shattering the gritty male-dominated sport by the sheer force of her determination, Kallen discovered and trained heavyweight Bobby Hitz and later steered James Toney to four championships in four different weight classes.

The movie, heavy on fight sequences, was made in 2002 and was first slated for release last April but Paramount Pictures delayed its debut because of what it felt could be a hard sell during the Iraq war.

Producer Robert Cort told reporters that with Ryan departing from her best-known, romantic comedy role, they needed a less frenzied climate to promote the movie.

Ryan was not a boxing fan before the movie—although she comments wryly

MEG/ G3

Like daughter, like mother

By Nestor U. Torre

(Conclusion)

"MAE, Mother Angelica's natural mother, in the years following her daughter's investment as a nun, had softened toward religious life and deepened in her Catholic faith. God, in ways only he could have managed, had been subtly speaking to Mae, preparing her heart for the day when she would embrace Him in a cloister, following the example of her daughter."

Dan O'Neill observes: "On May 20, 1962, Mae became Mother Angelica's community's first postulant! She went on to receive her habit at her investment ceremony on Jan. 2, 1963, and made her first profession of vows exactly one year later.

"Mae and Mother Angelica had come full circle, and were together again, bringing their dynamic relationship into the family of Sisters. Mae became Sister Mary David of the Infant Jesus and would spend the rest of her life in the monastery, functioning as an extern Sister at first.

MOTHER ANGELICA. Miraculous healing.

"In a monastic sense, Mae, now Sister David, would become a daughter. Her daughter, Mother Angelica, became her Mother!"

O'Neill's book, "Mother Angelica—Her Own Life Story," goes on to relate other incidents that underscore Mae's unusual relationship with her daughter.

In 1940, Mae was strapped for money, so her daughter Rita, then only 16, took it upon herself to find work for her. She approached

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YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM FEB. 14 - FEB. 20

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	25	29
	6:00 Star in A Million 6:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 8:30 Home Along da Airport 9:00 Victim 9:30 Buttercup 10:30 Kontrobersyal 11:30 "F" 12:00 Sports Unlimited	5:00 Asian Boxing Championship 7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8:00 Search for the 1st Tanduay Billiards Player 9:00 Cardiff Wales World Pool Championship 2003	7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Mirror, Mirror 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 The New Adventures of Robinhood	6:00 Search for a Star 7:00 Imbestigador 8:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 9:30 Kakabakaba Adventures 10:30 Celebrity Turns 11:30 Flash Report 12:00 Master Showman	6:00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7:00 7 Days 8:00 John Doe 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 PGMA	5:00 PEMSEA 7:00 Global Family Series 8:00 Homecoming sa Trese 10:00 A Legacy of Heroes 11:00 Iyo ang Katarungan	6:00 Baywatch 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 The Amazing Race 8:30 Boston Public 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Reel Deal	6:00 Agila Reports 6:30 Screen Savers 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 Car Guys 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Ang Tamang Daan 10:00 Pasugo	6:00 RJ Music Videos 9:00 Music Videos 10:00 Music Videos 11:00 Music Videos
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Tanging Ina 9:30 24 10:00 Sunday Family Cinema 11:30 Dong Puno Tonight 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Asian Boxing Championship 9:00 Go For Gold 11:00 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Restol 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Ispup atpb 9:00 Viva Cine Idols 11:00 Speed	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Smack Down Wrestling 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 May Puso ang Batas 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Wrongfully Accused* 11:00 URRC TV	6:00 Home Shopping Network 7:00 KBP Documentary 8:00 A Legacy of Heroes 9:00 Flame in the Wind 11:00 MTV 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Sponge Bob 6:30 Mr. Bean 7:00 Exposed 8:00 Spin City 8:30 Just Shoot Me 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The West Wing 10:30 Digital Tour 11:00 Crossing Over with John	6:00 Captured 6:30 Fresh Gear 7:00 Convergence 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 New Yankee Workshop 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Ang Tamang Daan 10:00 Ang Iglesia ni Cristo	6:00 RJ Music Videos 9:00 Music Videos 10:00 Music Videos 11:00 Music Videos
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Travel has enriched Michael Crichton's life

By Ronald G. Mangubat

MICHAEL Crichton, the father of techno thrillers, comes from a family of inveterate travelers. As a child, he says, they were practically living in suitcases, hopping from one place to another.

Adventures

For years, he toured exotic places like Borneo, Pakistan, Ireland and Tanzania. It was only during the late '80s that he wrote his travel adventures which, he proudly admits, have enriched his life.

If you're wondering how the writer of "Jurassic Park," "Congo," "Disclosure," "Sphere," "Rising Sun," "Timeline" and the creator of the TV series, "E.R.," got his brilliant and dazzling ideas, read his autobiographical book, "Travels" (Ballantine Books, August, 1989, 417 pp.). This book will convince you that burning curiosity, thirst for knowledge and an itch to travel can do wonders for people who have the passion to express themselves in words.

Medical doctor

Crichton is an anthropology graduate from Harvard (summa cum laude), and was also a medical doctor before he shifted to writing novels and screenplays, and directing films. His academic training gives his novels the intellectual and scientific gloss which has impressed his readers. But it is his travels that provide the heart and soul of his popular oeuvres.

In "Travels," Crichton first recalls his medical studies at Harvard, his life as a physician and how illness convinced him to abandon medicine and make the radical shift to writing. "In quitting, " he says, "I was following my instincts. I was doing what I really wanted to do."

In the next three-fourths of the book, Crichton takes his readers on his globe-trotting adventures, recalling how he climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa but never made it to the top, how he stared at the Mayan pyramids in the Yucatan, dived into the shark-infested seas of Tahiti, was attacked by gorillas in Rwanda, smoked pot in Bangkok, was almost doubled-crossed by a swindler in Jamaica, tracked wild animals in Malay jungles—etc.!

His travels made him see the world from a wider perspective and made him understand humanity in deep, desultory ways. He explains:

CRICHTON. Father of techno thrillers.

"I eventually realized that direct experience is most valuable. Western man is surrounded by ideas, and bombarded by opinions, concepts, and information structures of all sorts, so it becomes difficult to experience anything without the intervening filter of these structures."

Phenomena

Crichton surprises readers when he delves into new age stuff, describes his spiritual sojourns and gives his opinions on such phenomena as spoon-bending, fortune-telling, life on the astral plane, auras, etc. Non-believers and skeptics might get turned off by his passion for "psychic smorgasbord," but for people open to other-dimensional truths, the book's last part would just be the right way to end "Travels."

Inner journey

As Crichton recalls his adventures, he also analyzes himself and his relationships. He talks about his awkward and ambiguous feelings towards his father, his failed marriages, the maddening and egocentric world of show business, and even his love-hate relationships with animals.

Unlike most travel books that simply describe picturesque places, Crichton goes on an inner journey toward self-discovery, revealing details about his temper, desires and urges.

Crichton has sold over 100 million books, which have been translated into 30 languages. Twelve of those books have been made into films.

Clearly, his travels have paid off!

Meg Ryan fights back in boxing movie

LOS ANGELES—Meg Ryan has learned a thing or two about being on the ropes in the past three years, but she was an ingenue when it came to boxing.

Brief romance

Divorce, a brief romance with former bad-boy actor Russell Crowe and her last movie outing in the sexually explicit murder mystery "In the Cut" overturned Ryan's image as the bubbly, blue-eyed romantic comedy actress that made her America's 1990s movie sweetheart.

But her upcoming boxing movie "Against the Ropes" taught her more than she bargained for both about the sport and her own place in the Hollywood ring.

"I think there are a lot of analogous things between the boxing world and Hollywood. They are very, very happy to put you in a box and say this is meant for you and not this. Particularly, if you look a certain way, you can be judged immediately," Ryan, 42, told reporters.

Ryan was both irked and surprised at the reception last year for "In the Cut," in which she played several steamy nude scenes, noting that only seven of her 30 or so movies have been romantic comedies. She played an alcoholic wife in "When a Man Loves a Woman" and a stripper in "Hurlyburly."

RYAN. Plays against type in "Against the Ropes."

Comedies

"I learned on the last movie out that there is definitely a very particular idea (of me) that people don't want to give up. Fine. I'm happy to do comedies but I'm an actor. I'm going to try to do all kind of different things," she said.

"Against the Ropes," sees Ryan again playing against type as the real and larger-than-life female US boxing manager Jackie Kallen.

Journalist

Kallen switched from a career as a journalist in Detroit in the 1980s to become the best-known and one of the most successful female boxing managers in history.

Shattering the gritty male-dominated sport by the sheer force of her determination, Kallen discovered and trained heavyweight Bobby Hitz and later steered James Toney to four championships in four different weight classes.

The movie, heavy on fight sequences, was made in 2002 and was first slated for release last April but Paramount Pictures delayed its debut because of what it felt could be a hard sell during the Iraq war.

Producer Robert Cort told reporters that with Ryan departing from her best-known, romantic comedy role, they needed a less frenzied climate to promote the movie.

Ryan was not a boxing fan before the movie—although she comments wryly

MEG/ G3

Like daughter, like mother

By Nestor U. Torre

(Conclusion)

"MAE, Mother Angelica's natural mother, in the years following her daughter's investment as a nun, had softened toward religious life and deepened in her Catholic faith. God, in ways only he could have managed, had been subtly speaking to Mae, preparing her heart for the day when she would embrace Him in a cloister, following the example of her daughter."

Dan O'Neill observes: "On May 20, 1962, Mae became Mother Angelica's community's first postulant! She went on to receive her habit at her investment ceremony on Jan. 2, 1963, and made her first profession of vows exactly one year later.

"Mae and Mother Angelica had come full circle, and were together again, bringing their dynamic relationship into the family of Sisters. Mae became Sister Mary David of the Infant Jesus and would spend the rest of her life in the monastery, functioning as an extern Sister at first.

MOTHER ANGELICA. Miraculous healing.

"In a monastic sense, Mae, now Sister David, would become a daughter. Her daughter, Mother Angelica, became her Mother!"

O'Neill's book, "Mother Angelica—Her Own Life Story," goes on to relate other incidents that underscore Mae's unusual relationship with her daughter.

In 1940, Mae was strapped for money, so her daughter Rita, then only 16, took it upon herself to find work for her. She approached

LIKE/ G3

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM FEB 14 – FEB 20

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	25	29
	6:00 Star in A Million 6:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 8:30 Home Along da Airport 9:00 Victim 9:30 Buttercup 10:30 Kontrobersyal 11:30 "F" 12:00 Sports Unlimited	5:00 Asian Boxing Championship 7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8:00 Search for the 1st Tanduay Billiards Player 9:00 Cardiff Wales World Pool Championship 2003	7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Mirror, Mirror 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 The New Adventures of Robinhood	6:00 Search for a Star 7:00 Imbestigador 8:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 9:30 Kakabakaba Adventures 10:30 Celebrity Turns 11:30 Flash Report 12:00 Master Showman	6:00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7:00 7 Days 8:00 John Doe 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 PGMA	5:00 PEMSEA 7:00 Global Family Series 8:00 Homecoming sa Trese 10:00 A Legacy of Heroes 11:00 Iyo ang Katarungan	6:00 Baywatch 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 The Amazing Race 8:30 Boston Public 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Reel Deel	6:00 Agila Reports 6:30 Screen Savers 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 Car Guys 8:30 OWTV Journal 9:00 Ang Tamang Daan 10:00 Pasugo	6:00 RJ Music Videos 9:00 Music Videos 10:00 Music Videos 11:00 Music Videos
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Tanging Ina 9:30 24 10:00 Sunday Family Cinema 11:30 Dong Puno Tonight 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Asian Boxing Championship 9:00 Go For Gold 11:00 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Restol 6:30 Guyland 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Ispup atpb 9:00 Viva Cine Idols 11:00 Speed	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Smack Down Wrestling 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 May Puso ang Batas 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Wrongfully Accused* 11:00 URRC TV	6:00 Home Shopping Network 7:00 KBP Documentary 8:00 A Legacy of Heroes 9:00 Flame in the Wind 11:00 MTV 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Sponge Bob 6:30 Mr Bean 7:00 Exposed 8:00 Spin City 8:30 Just Shoot Me 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The West Wing 10:30 Digital Tour 11:00 Crossing Over with John	6:00 Captured 6:30 Fresh Gear 7:00 Convergence 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 New Yankee Workshop 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Ang Tamang Daan 10:00 Ang Iglesia ni Cristo	6:00 RJ Music Videos 9:00 Music Videos 10:00 Music Videos 11:00 Music Videos
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Meg Ryan fights back in boxing movie

From page G2

that she has "thrown some good punches in my imagination"—and was nothing like the sassy, brassy Kallen with her penchant for high heels and sexy wardrobe.

Metaphor

But she came to see sport as "an amazing metaphor for drama" and to appreciate the discipline of boxing.

"There's a real purity in boxing and that wasn't my initial impression of it. But then, I started to see the difference between fighting and boxing. It is a great release for aggression, a healthy release," Ryan said.

"Against the Ropes" is billed as "inspired by" Kallen rather than being her true story or a fictionalized biography. And Kallen and Ryan appear to have inspired each other as they got to know each other over lunches, at fights, in gyms and just hanging out.

"Meg has been able to separate her private and public lives. She taught me that it doesn't matter what people write about you. If you read it and buy into it, you lose who you really are," Kallen, 57, told reporters.

Lesson

Ryan hesitated, then took a deep breath, before explaining the biggest lesson she had learned from Kallen: "How useless it is to shrink to fit anyone's expectation of you—because there are not that many people around wishing you the best.

"It's true. You can be despised and detested for your success as much as for your failure, and there is no reason to let those voices in!" she said. *Reuters*

Like . . .

From page G2

the mayor's sister and asked her to find a job for Mae. Impressed with the teenage stranger's boldness, the mayor's sister did help and Mae got her job!

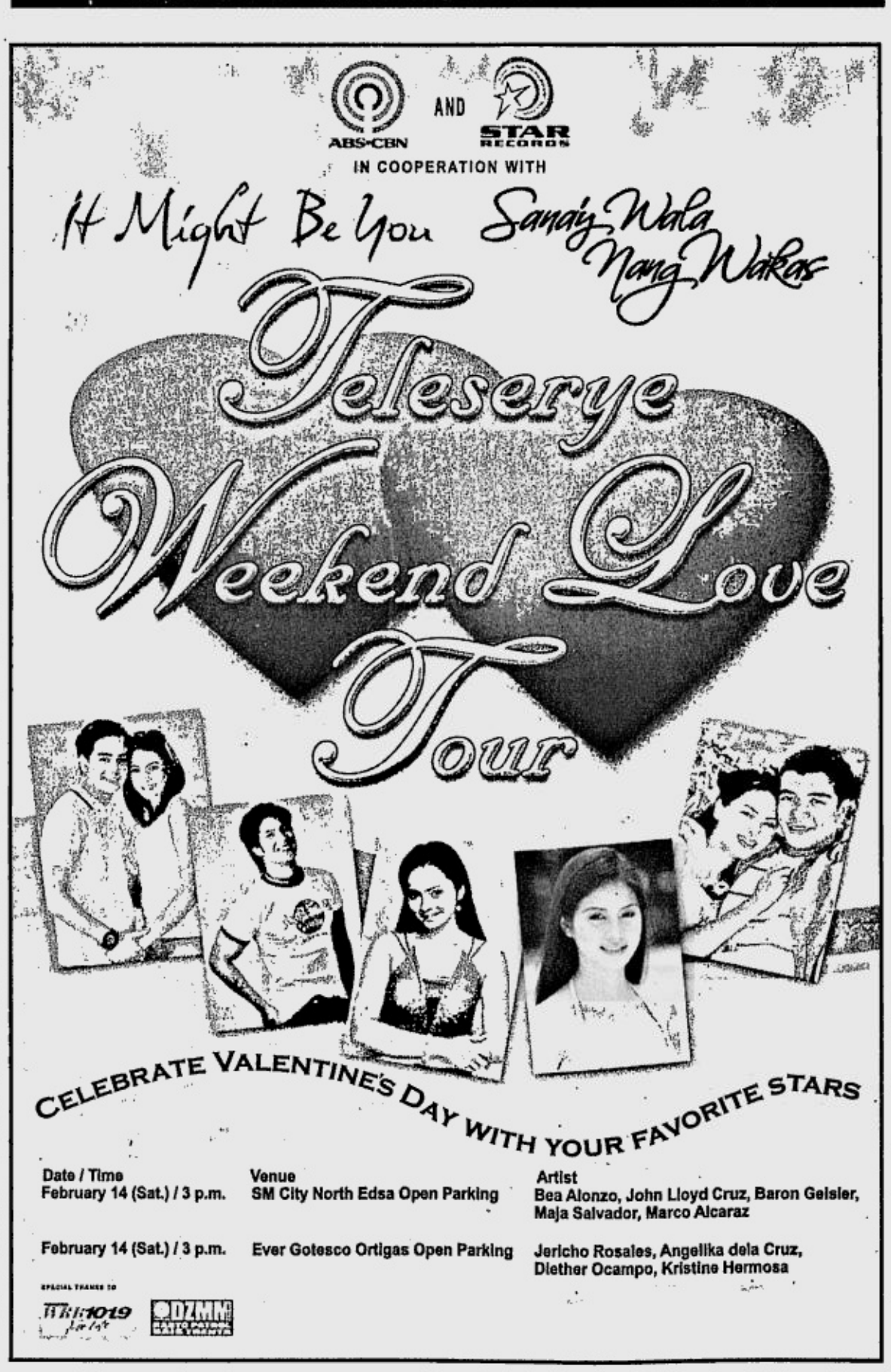
More dramatically, in 1943, Rita was suffering from ceaseless abdominal pain due to alarming abnormalities in her stomach and intestines. Mae decided to take her to Rhoda Wise, a cancer patient who was reported to have had visions of Jesus Christ, who had healed her of her terminal ailment and had left her with stigmata.

Misgivings

Rita had deep misgivings, but Mae insisted on taking her to the stigmatist. And Rita got her miraculous healing!

Even better, the experience transformed her into a deeply religious person, who prayed at every opportunity. Mae was alarmed, but her own mother soothed her by saying, "Mae, Rita doesn't belong to us anymore. She belongs to the Lord."

True enough, in 1944, Rita Rizzo became a postulant. At first, Mae didn't support her daughter's decision, but at Rita's investment ceremony, she finally, happily acquiesced.



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SATURDAY Super 1

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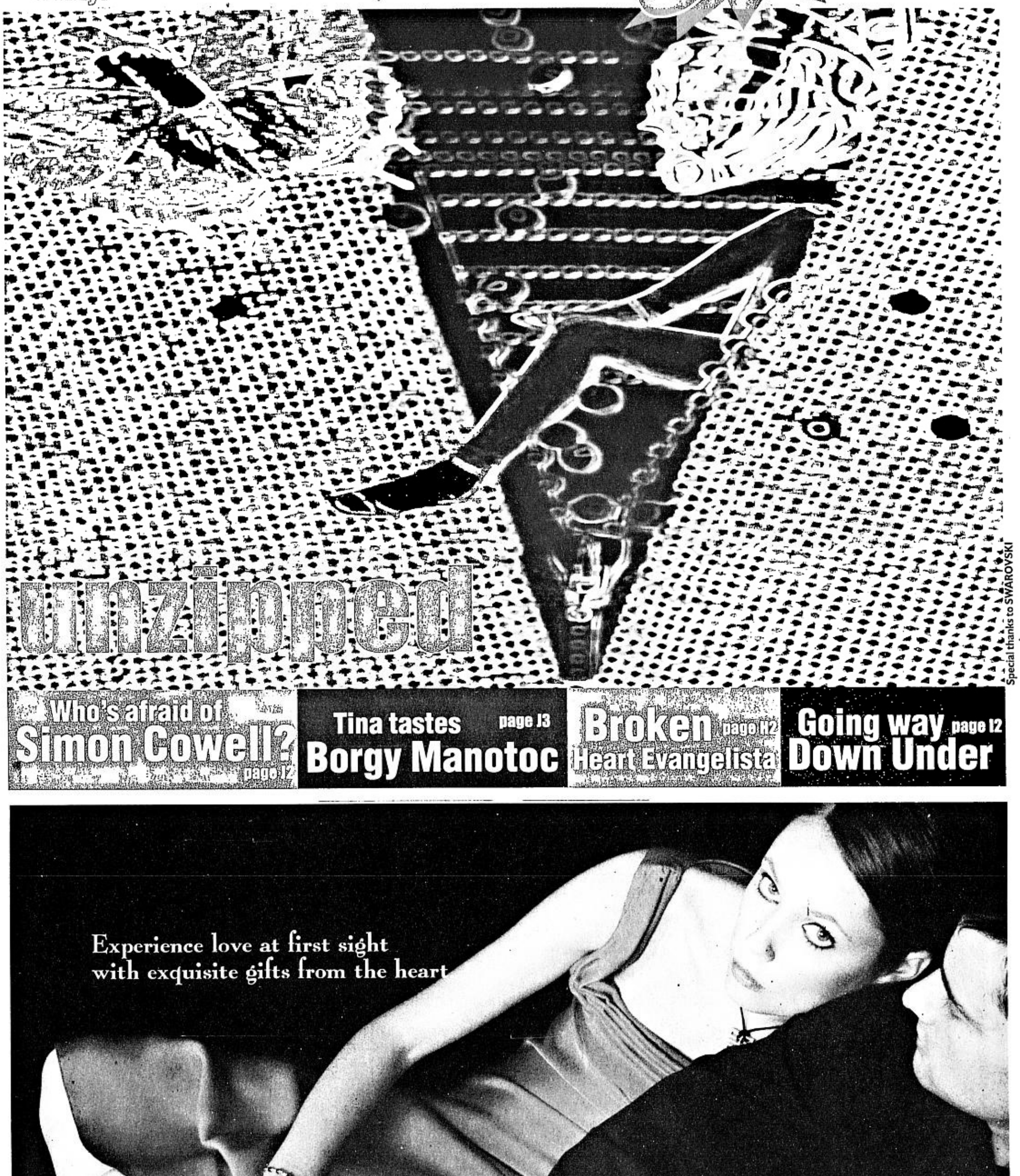
Creative Director **Tim Yap**

Super!Countdown

it's **V-day** today!



Special thanks to SWAROVSKI

Amazinged

Who's afraid of **Simon Cowell?** page 12

Tina tastes **Borgy Manotoc** page 13

Broken Heart Evangelista page 12

Going way **Down Under** page 12

The Super! Manifesto for Today's Lovers

Please read this aloud in front of your Valentine date/s, place your right hand on your chest and get ready to Super! size your love.

WE, hopeless romantics of the new generation, challenged by the constant evolution of romance, solemnly pledge to abide by the Super! Modern Lovers Manifesto. Through these guidelines, we aspire to establish protocol for courtship, dating and mating in this wham-bam-thank-you-ma'am/sir era.

The three pillars are as follows: Tayo Ba? Tayo Na! Tara Na!

***Tayo Ba?* The Courtship Stage**

Prior to initiating contact in a public venue, I will make an objective assessment of my personal self-worth, unswayed by my mother's opinion, to determine whether I stand a chance.

Flirting shall take place only when I am sincere, and not just to amuse myself. I will ask for your number only if I intend to actually call you.

The number of people who have shared your bed is your secret and yours alone. I hope you would be so kind as to reciprocate the sensitivity.

***Tayo Na!* The Dating Stage**

Going through your cell phone Inbox, Outbox and Call Register for recent correspondence with exes is a crime.

I understand that "sweetie," "honey" and "babe," in slanguage, are all synonyms of "buddy."

Understanding the protocol of emotionally-charged texts, my last one for the day won't be just a "K." If it must be, I will at least affix a smiley.

I will not talk about my exes for more than five minutes; I will instead focus on the promise of ours.

Physical fitness shall remain a priority, regardless of our dating bliss. Dr. Atkins will be the ever-constant, silent but powerful third force in our relationship.

***Tara Na!* The Mating Stage**

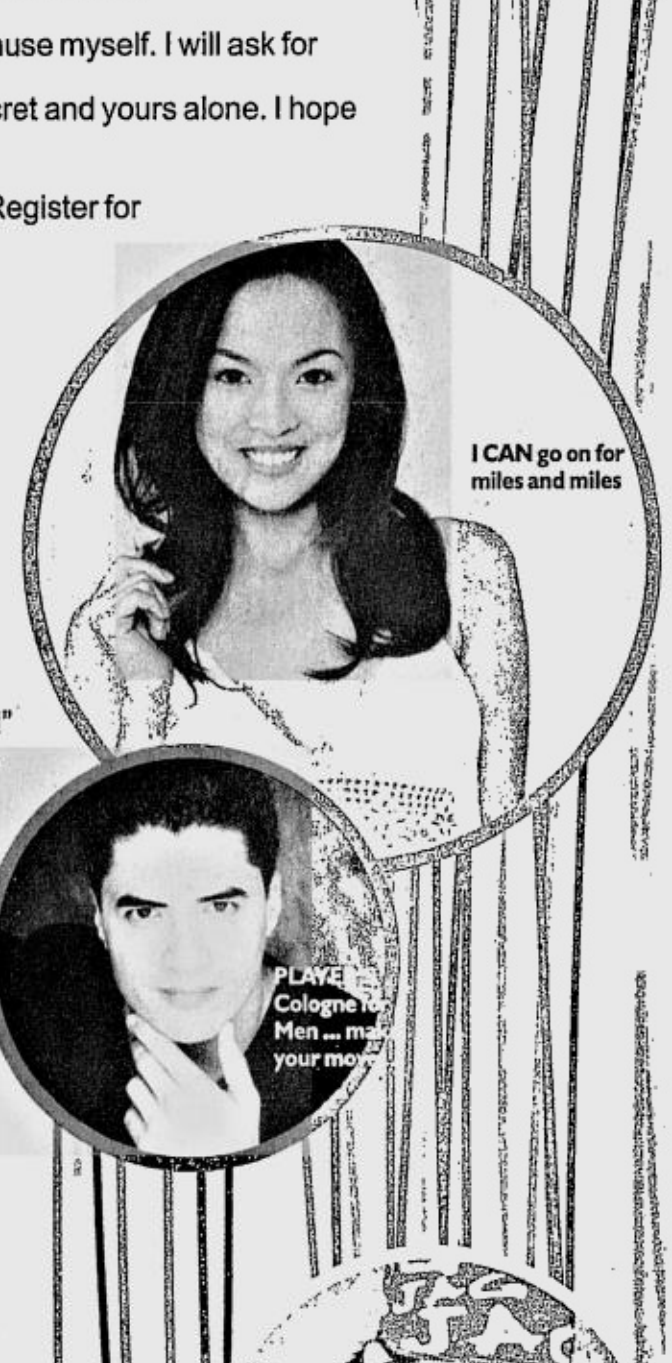
Fourth base always comes after first, second and third.

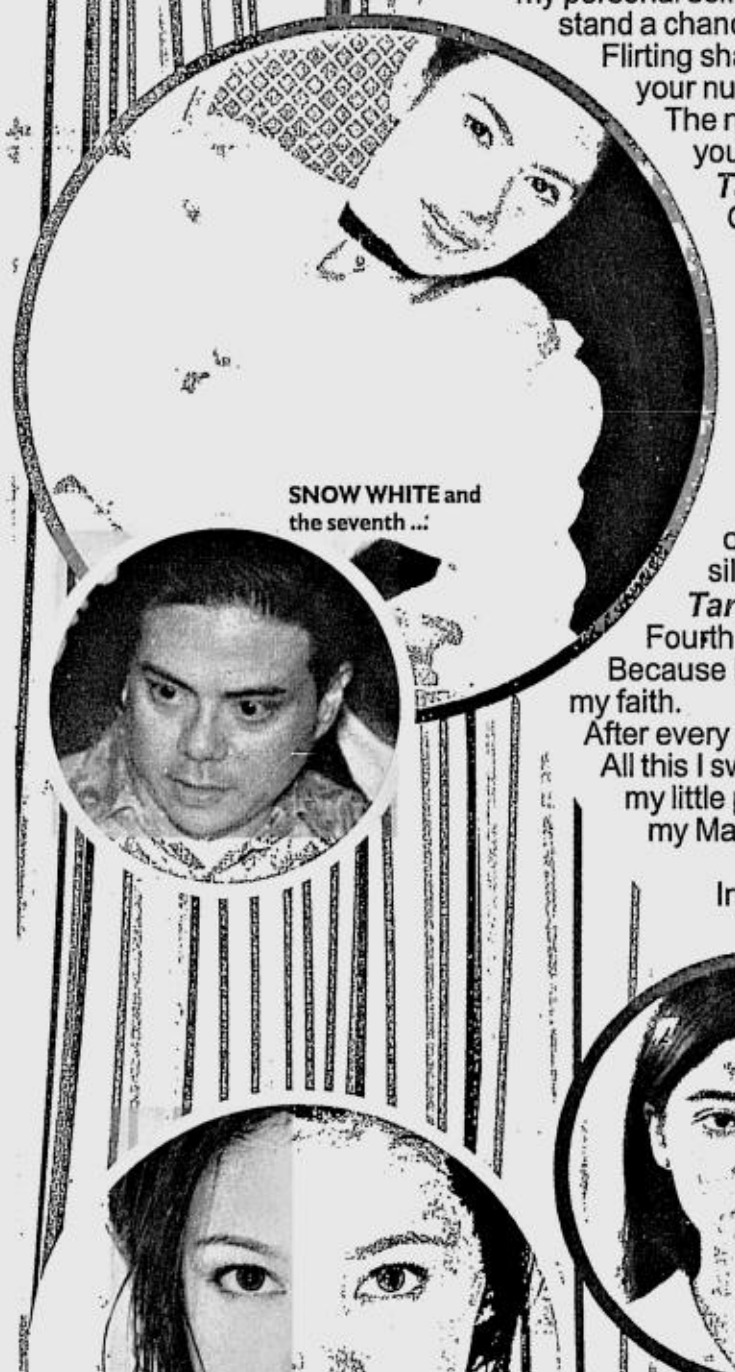
Because I am not a missionary, I will find other ways to spread my faith.

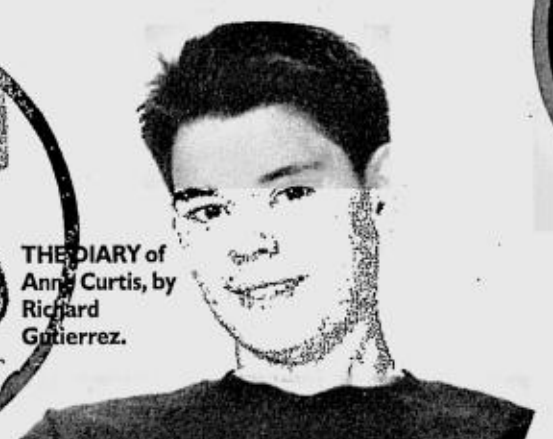
After every time, I will look you in the eye and whisper, "Love ko 'to!"

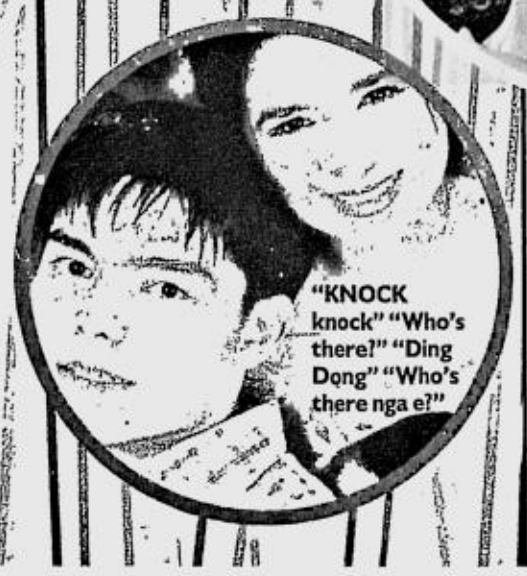
All this I swear to you, my love, my honey bunny, my preciousssss, my little pony, my fair lady, my cherie amour, my *pera ka ba*, my Mai Cojuangco, my Magic Kitchen.

In Trust we trust.









The Super! Manifesto for Today's Lovers

Please read this aloud in front of your Valentine date/s, place your right hand on your chest and get ready to Super! size your love.

WE, hopeless romantics of the new generation, challenged by the constant evolution of romance, solemnly pledge to abide by the Super! Modern Lovers Manifesto. Through these guidelines, we aspire to establish protocol for courtship, dating and mating in this wham-bam-thank-you-ma'am/sir era.

The three pillars are as follows: Tayo Ba? Tayo Na! Tara Na!

Tayo Ba? The Courtship Stage

Prior to initiating contact in a public venue, I will make an objective assessment of my personal self-worth, unswayed by my mother's opinion, to determine whether I stand a chance.

Flirting shall take place only when I am sincere, and not just to amuse myself. I will ask for your number only if I intend to actually call you.

The number of people who have shared your bed is your secret and yours alone. I hope you would be so kind as to reciprocate the sensitivity.

Tayo Na! The Dating Stage

Going through your cell phone Inbox, Outbox and Call Register for recent correspondence with exes is a crime.

I understand that "sweetie," "honey" and "babe," in slanguage, are all synonyms of "buddy."

Understanding the protocol of emotionally-charged texts, my last one for the day won't be just a "K." If it must be, I will at least affix a smiley.

I will not talk about my exes for more than five minutes; I will instead focus on the promise of ours.

Physical fitness shall remain a priority, regardless of our dating bliss. Dr. Atkins will be the ever-constant, silent but powerful third force in our relationship.

Tara Na! The Mating Stage

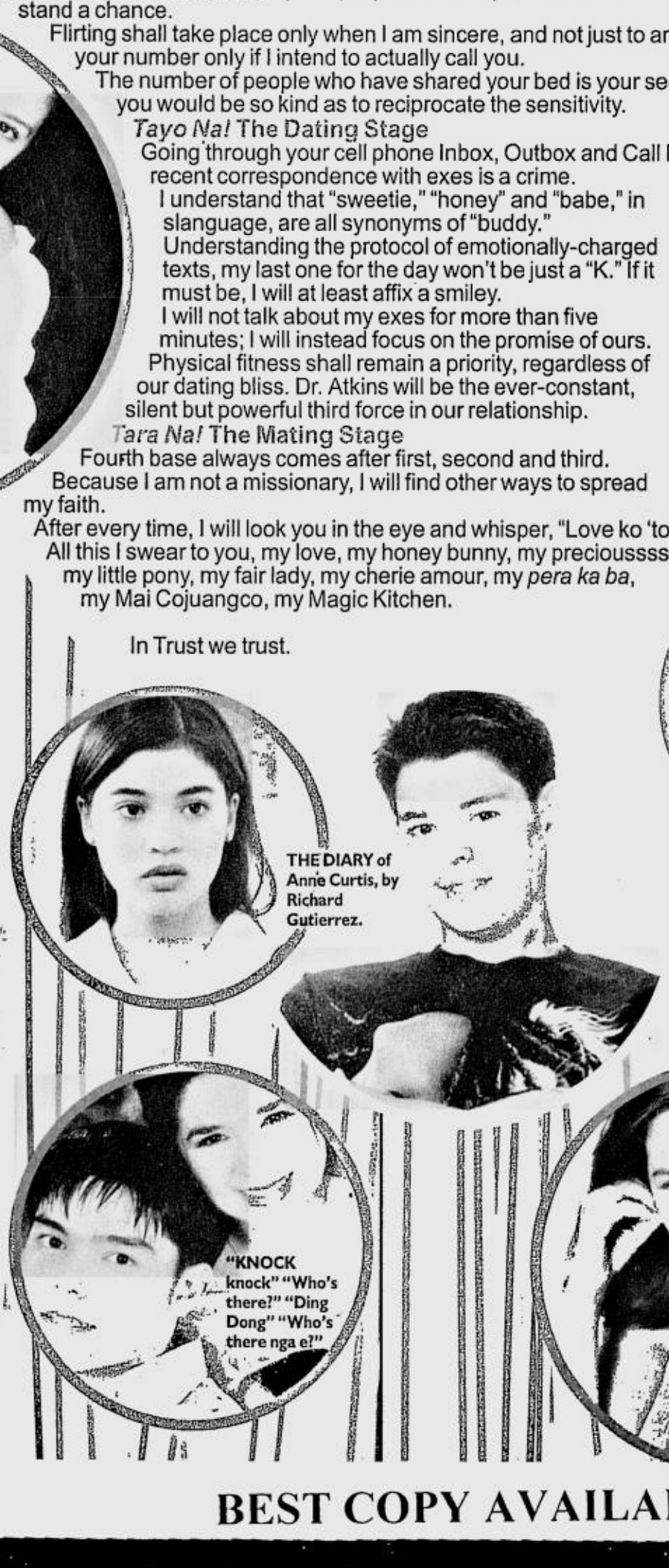
Fourth base always comes after first, second and third.

Because I am not a missionary, I will find other ways to spread my faith.

After every time, I will look you in the eye and whisper, "Love ko 'to!"

All this I swear to you, my love, my honey bunny, my preciousssss, my little pony, my fair lady, my cherie amour, my *pera ka ba*, my Mai Cojuangco, my Magic Kitchen.

In Trust we trust.



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Your Super! guide to Valentine's

If you don't LOVE, you die

ALL filled with uncertainty and prone to mouthing pretentious clichés — this I become when suddenly faced with an imaginary death match about love. How can I help shed even the slightest glimmer of light on "the cause and end of all sorrow and happiness" since time immemorial? People have suffered and died in the name of love, and judging by the thousands of years down man's history, we still have no idea. No matter. I honestly don't think we are meant to fully capture something that is ultimately beyond ourselves. And to grasp its full meaning? One should count himself lucky.

Ironic, because I also believe that to seek love is the very reason we live. Without it, life isn't worth much. It certainly won't be as colorful. True, it may be a lot less painful—but the other side of the coin means that chances are, it won't be as joyful, either. Whether it is referenced to a point within or outside of us, to love—to in fact give a damn—is to enjoy the air we breathe, and savor each beat of our heart.

The title says it all.

May you all have an extraordinarily SUPER! Valentine's Day!

(Especially with the week ahead!)

ILLUSTRATION BY TRISHA UY

Lemon-aide

Giselle Segovia

Saturday, February 14

Neither your status nor your gender should limit your capacity for fun tonight. You could be male, female, straight, a swinger, married, divorced, whatever! Do not let anything deter you from having the grandest time. Manila has prepared an activity feast just for you... so here it goes (take a deep breath):

• If you want to escape the madding crowds of malls and hotels or are just looking for a delightful dinner with a difference this Feb. 14, celebrate love at WASABI.

For one perfect evening, WASABI will offer a special Valentines Buffet for Japanese food enthusiasts. For only P850++ per person, enjoy generous servings of your favorite Wasabi classics. For sweet tooth lovers, delight in Wasabi's exclusive array of desserts including our favorite mango crème brule, chocolate tiramisu, assorted cakes and pastries, fruit tartlets and French style crepes.

Reserve your tables now! Call 840-4223 for more details. WASABI is located at the Olympia Bldg., corner Maakti Ave. & Sto. Tomas Sts., Makati City.

• At the Westin Philippine Plaza, partake of a lovely dinner and, afterwards, listen to Basil Valdez, Kuh Ledesma and Zsa Zsa Padilla. "Devoted" is directed by Louie Ocampo, tickets are available at Ticketnet: 911-5555.

• I doubt that anyone in the Philippines doesn't have a favorite Toto song. "I'll Be Over You?" "I Won't Hold You Back?" "Africa?" Tonight is their last night, 8 p.m. at the Aliw Theater, CCP Complex. Tickets can be purchased at Ticketnet (911-5555) and Ticketworld (891-5610) outlets. Don't knock out anyone while you're rushing.

• Men! Sexy men! Scantily clad sexy men! Australia's "Thunder from Down Under" performs live from tonight till tomorrow at the Ampitheater, Casino Filipino, Parañaque City. Ticketworld (891-9999) has the passes you need for "two hours of titillating fun!" Not free of course.

• Popular and musically "seeded" DJ Ricky Stone will mixing his brand of beats at Halo in Makati (13th) and Club Centro in Libis, Quezon City tonight with dj resident McCranie.

• Turn into complete mush with the sentimental anthems of John Ford Coley, the man behind such love songs as "Love is the Answer," "It's Sad to Belong (to Someone Else)" and "I'd Really Love to See You Tonight." "RetroLove" starts 8:30 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum, dial Maximedia for inquiries. Tel. No. 551-7777.

• Also check out "Malate Arias atbp" at the Maria Orosa Strip in Malate from 7 p.m. onwards as Maria Orosa turns into a romantic street lounge with classical and opera music played all throughout the night. Wine, dine and party at Manila's gay friendly side

Tuesday, February 17

Catch "The 101 Most Beautiful Necklaces" on its second week at the Greenbelt 3 lobby. Introducing the handiwork of a creative force of 16 Italian jewelers based in Venice, Italy, the pieces put on view will celebrate, surprisingly, not diamond or any other precious stone, but glass as the medium of beautiful jewelry. Apparently, glass is class. This event is staged by the Philippine-Italian Association (PIA) in connection with the Tantoco-Rustia Foundation, and co-sponsored by Air France.

Wednesday, February 18

There's a serious buzz we're hearing about "Next Wednesday." This new gig of Positive Noise Productions is calling all party animals, Hype Wednesday is back! The famous trio of DJ Kimozave, DJ Baddboy and MC Dash will surely make you bump and grind, only at ClubB 5, Premier THX Cinema, Mile Long Compound, Makati City.

Thursday, February 19

In the mood for something different? Do try dropping by Absinth, Greenbelt 3, Makati. Indio I and DJ Patch gather music lovers and partyphiles alike at "Merge," 10 p.m. It's most assuredly going to be a night of fab music and fine drinks.

Friday, February 20

I don't want to gush, but Jason Mraz is finally coming to visit! He's the voice and talented lyricist/musician behind feel-good and catchy songs like "Sleep All Day" and "The Remedy." To whet your appetite before his big concert at the Aliw Theater, Eventscape arranged a more intimate affair, "Jason Mraz Proximity—An Acoustic Session." He will perform some songs at Dish in Powerplant Mall on this night. This should be quite entertaining.

Word for the Bored:

"Every relationship I've been in, I've overwhelmed the girl. They just can't handle all the love."

-Justin Timberlake

Sunday, February 15

Something unique to look forward to: Kamiseta holds its first show jumping championships dubbed as the "Kamiseta Cup." It should be an interesting affair, as seasoned and amateur riders participate. Multi-awarded equestriennes Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski and Toni Leviste are slated for an exhibition match that no one should dare miss. Interested riders may get in touch with Ms Girl of the Manila Polo Club at 817-7493. If you have a hangover from V-day, you still have another chance to indulge. Regine Velasquez and Ogie Alcasid will impress and serenade you at "The Songbird and the Songwriter," with syrupy love songs. The concert starts at 8 p.m. and you can call Ticketnet for details.

Monday, February 16

How about a dose of political vitamins? The Popular Education for People Empowerment will hold a three-day seminar "Mano Poe: Popular Culture in Philippine Elections and Politics" starting on this day until the 18th. Dial 925-2176 for inquiries.

Get lucky in the Year of the Monkey!

As we launch

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SUPERFRIENDS!

Calling all singles

Text and photos by Tina Pamintuan

There's still a chance to find true love or even just the hope of a date tonight. My advice? Don't talk, just kiss. Here is the first batch of kissing candidates.

My name is Hazel Dy.
The best thing about being single is I can buy anything I want.
The worst thing is waking up alone.
Tonight I'll be out of town.
My best kiss was with Jeff Young.
The worst kiss is kissing a person you don't love.
Please send kisses to hazel_chic@hotmail.com.

My name is Vanessa Velasco.
The best thing about being single is being able to shop till you drop.
The worst thing is there's no one to talk about your problems.
Tonight I'll be at Tagaytay.
My best kiss was with Chamy my dog.
Please send kisses to Edwin Torres.

My name is Patrick Meneses.
The best thing about being single is meeting a lot of girls.
Tonight I'll be at a dinner date.
My best kiss was with a girlfriend.
Please send kisses to patmeneses@yahoo.com

CALLING/ I4

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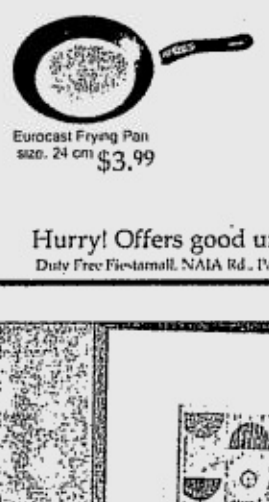

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Country Cottage 16 pc Dinner Set
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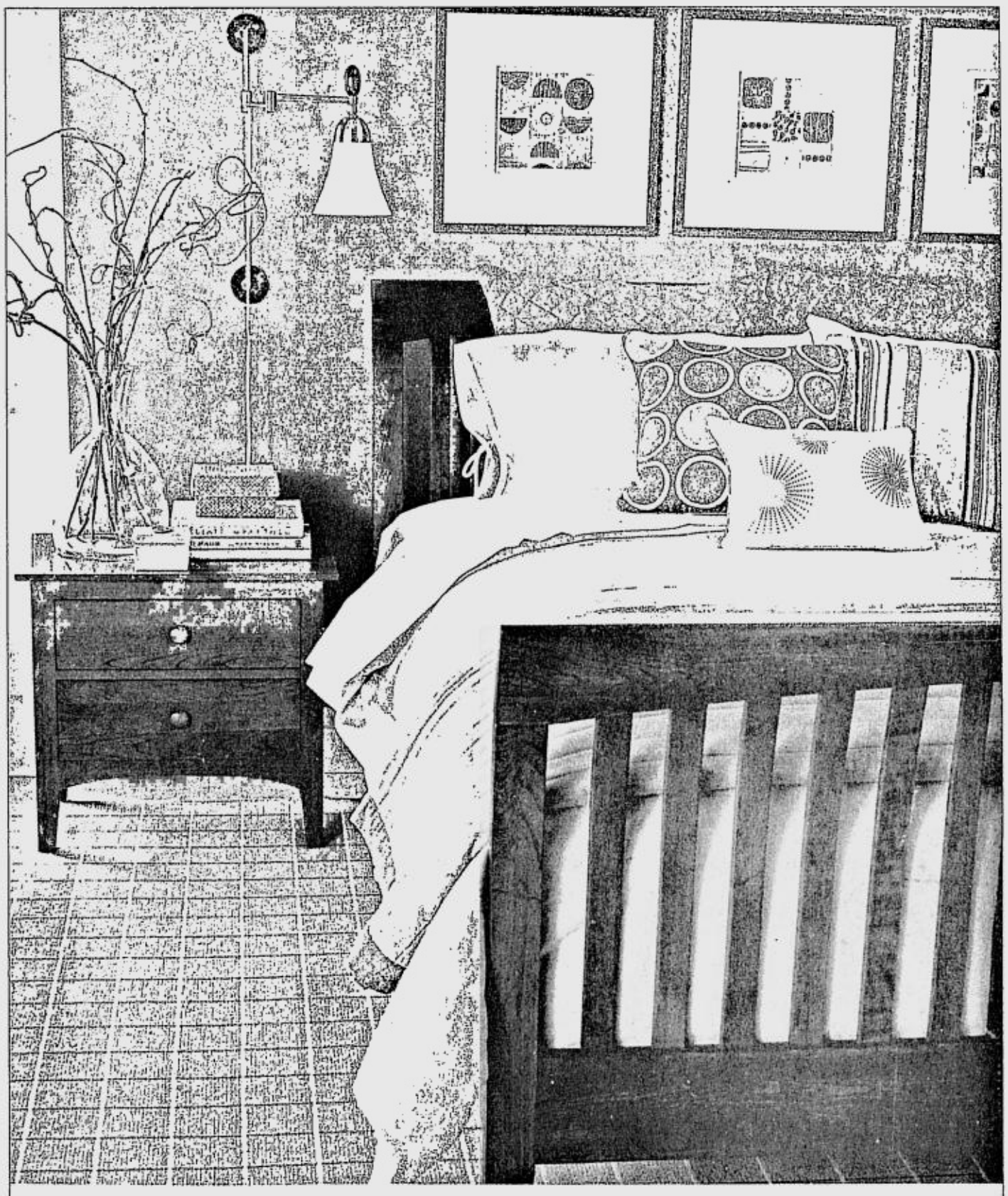

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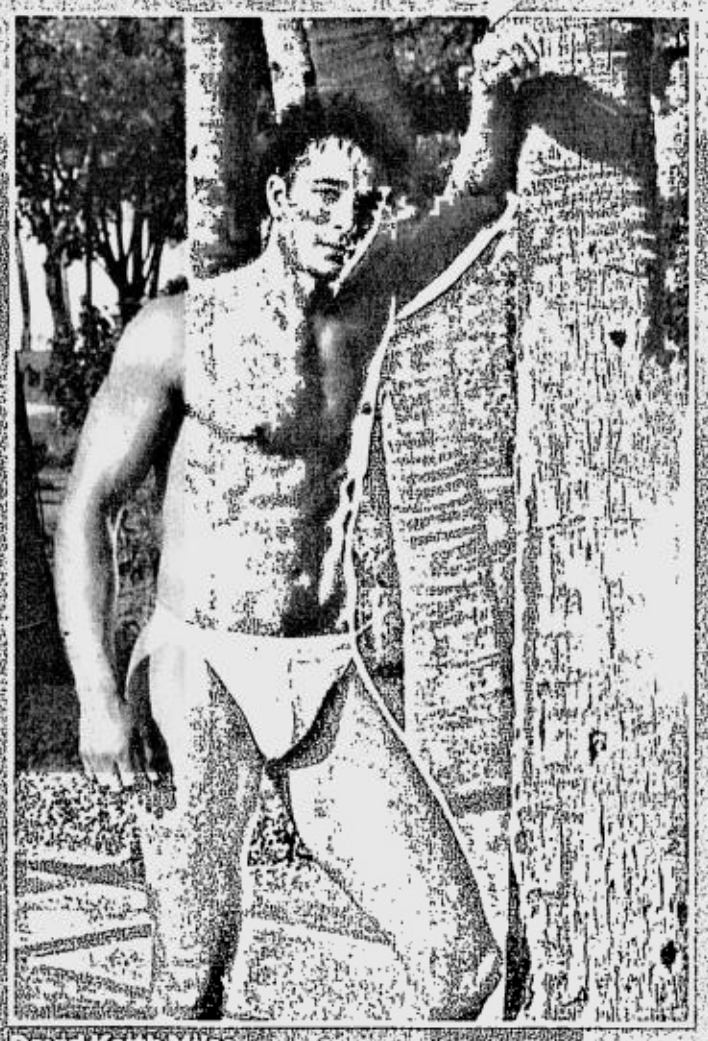
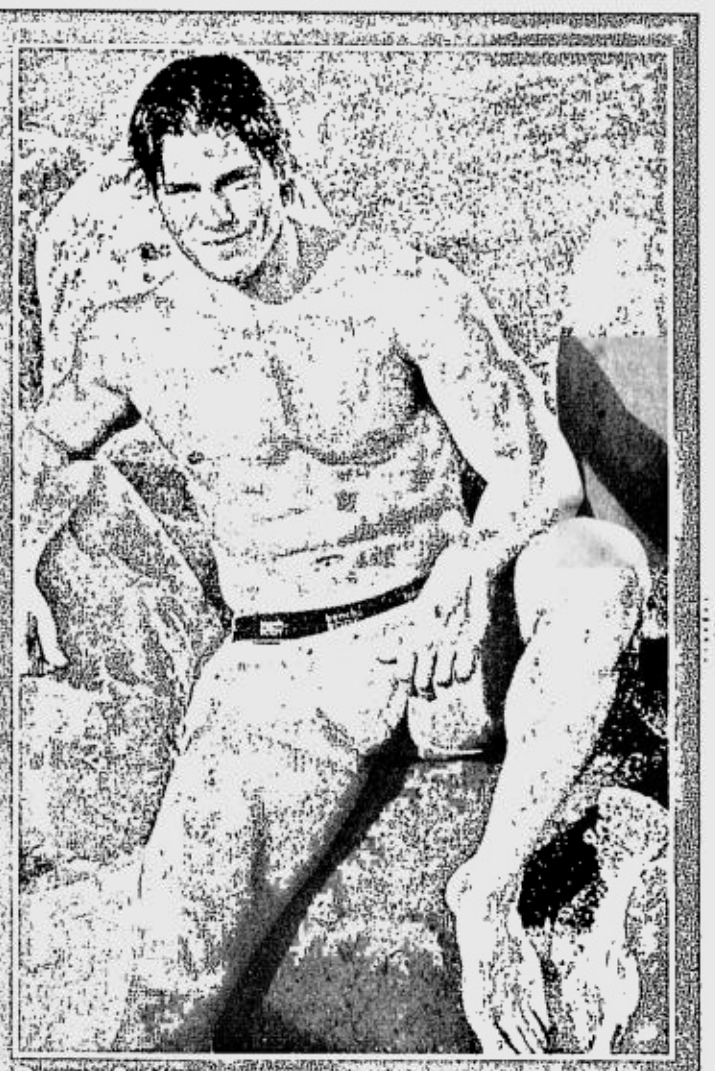
Luke Zillani
My wildest fantasy is ... Being on a beach with a group of beautiful women. The last time I fell in love was ... Last night. One thing I've done in my life that I'm not too proud of is ... With two girls at once.



David Keith Miles
My wildest fantasy is ... Finding a woman I can trust to be faithful to me because the last time I did it didn't work out. What happened to me on that day was the best (or worst) day of my life.



Darren Sutton
My wildest fantasy is ... Being on a beach with a group of beautiful women. The last time I fell in love was ... Last night. One thing I've done in my life that I'm not too proud of is ... Why modeling topless for the girls. What I'd go to bed ... Every night.

Going Down Under

It's a Vegas-type show where we reveal more and more as we wear less and less and the ladies scream louder and louder

By PJ Simon
Photos by Luc Veron

LAST Tuesday, Super got a little race time with the boys of Thunder from Down Under for a spotlight photo shoot.

When it came time to shed their clothes and change into the underwear that the stylist brought over for the shoot, the boys teased and said, "These are so small. They must be Filipino size. They put on my xxy."

Keith David Miles told me how the group got started, what they do in the show, and why they're dating (Carol) him and the rest of the Thunder tonight and tomorrow night at the Casino Filipino Amphitheater (7:30 p.m.).

Super: So how'd you boys get your name?

We were originally called Manpower Australia about 16 years ago. Then a few years back one of the MC's decided it was time for a change and re-dubbed it Thunder From Down Under.

Oh so you were those guys 16 years ago? You guys look pretty good for your age now.

No, no, the original members are no longer around. The group keeps adding new guys.

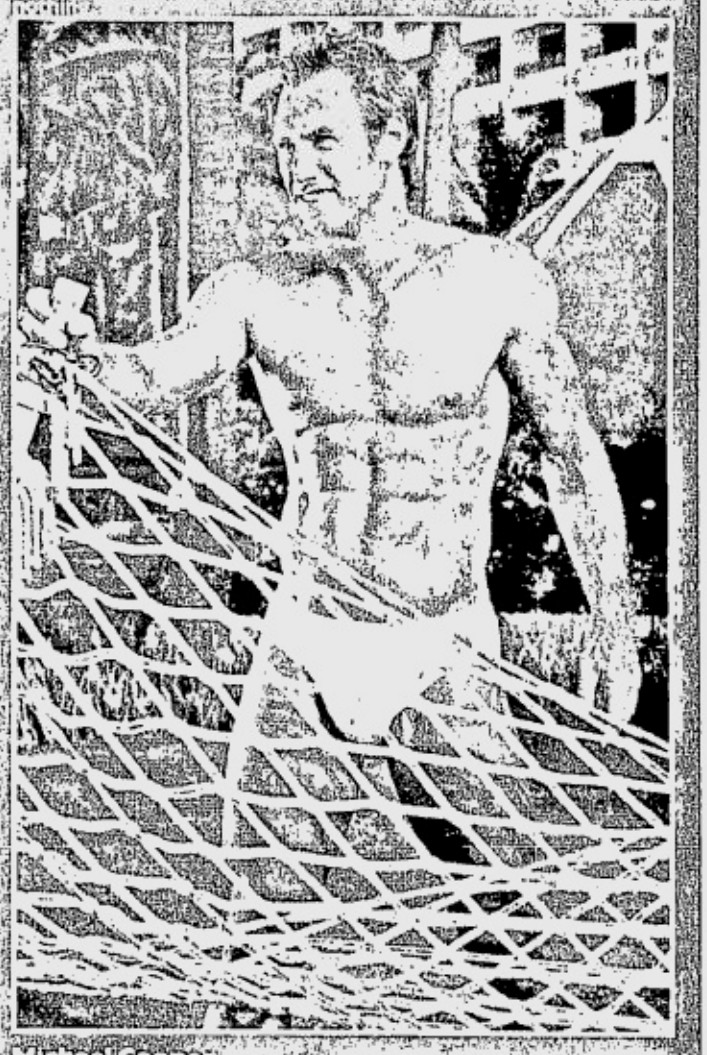
Do you fly in Air Thunder from city to city?

Yeah, man. We've got a couple of Vans to drive by. Another in Melbourne. Before Manila, our troupe was in Mexico. Our next stops are the United States and New Zealand.

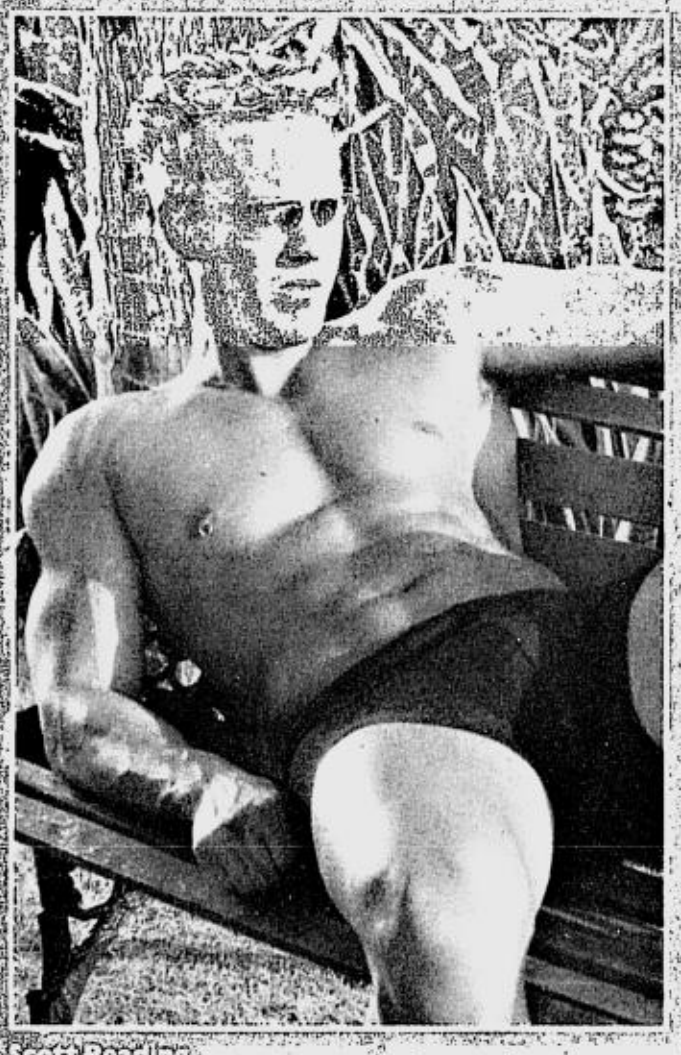
Our female readers will probably want to know if you guys are single.

What's more fun than being with Thunder?

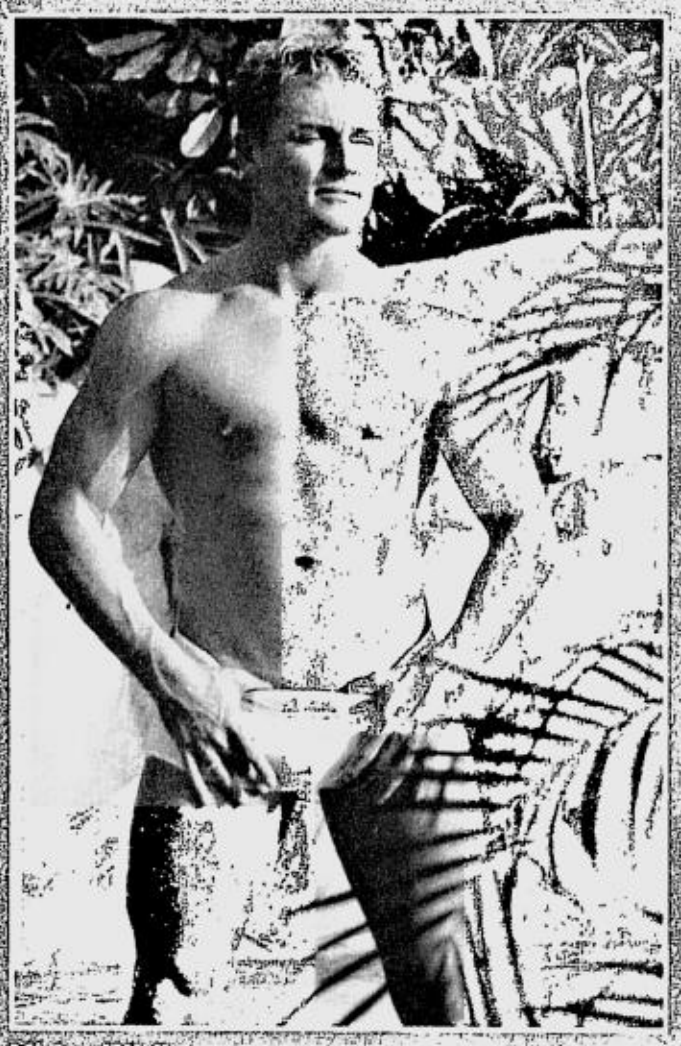
We've traveled like rock stars. We've got to see the world and meet lots of interesting people and all that.



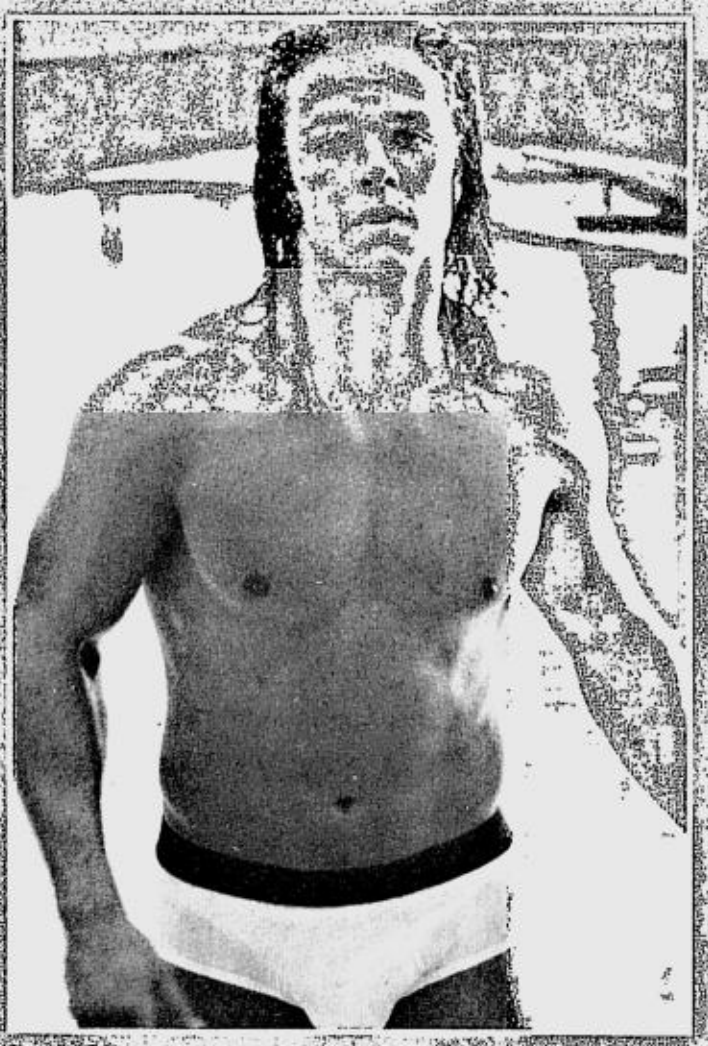
Michael Cooper
The last time I fell in love was ... Last night. One thing I've done in my life that I'm not too proud of is ... The last time I did it ... I made a look of myself. My weird fetish is ... Kids in cribs.



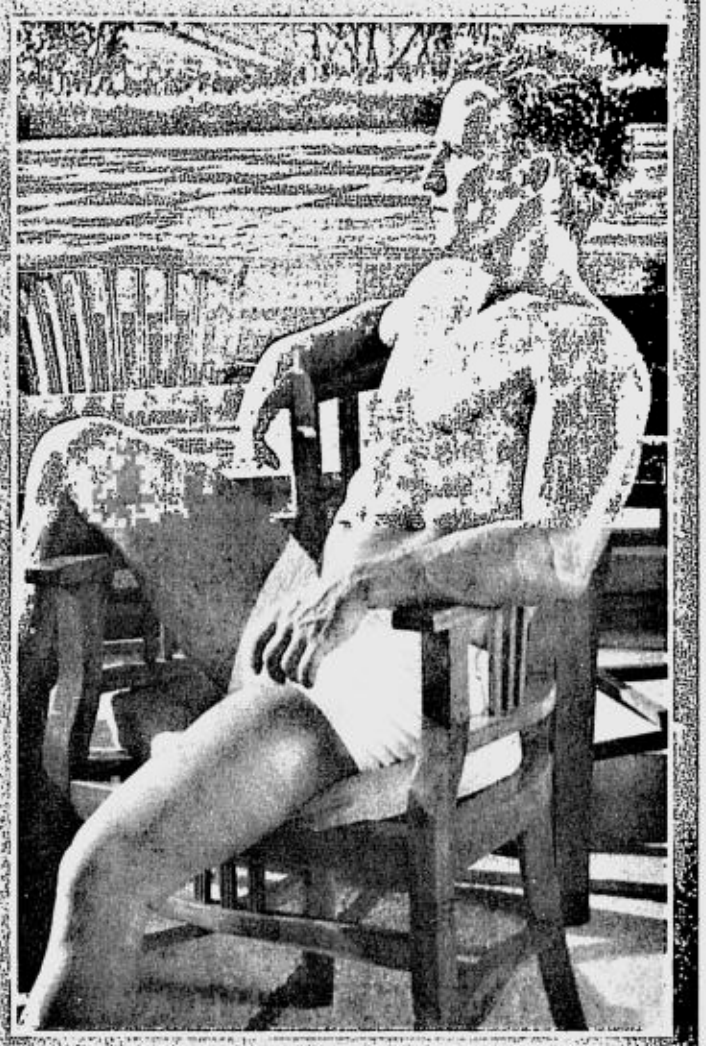
Scott Reading
When I go to bed I always wear ... Underwear. My weird fetish is ... I would have to show you. My idea of a romantic date is ... A walk by the water at sunset with a bottle of wine. One thing I've done in my life that I'm not too proud of is ... I can't tell you.



Michael Wells
The thing I find most attractive with women is ... their hair. I try not to get too drunk because the last time I did ... I lost my car. My weird fetish is ... Filipina women's.
One thing I've always wanted to do but haven't done yet is ... go out with a Filipina girl.



David Moore
My wildest fantasy is ... on a log, boat drifting on the ocean.
The last time I fell in love was ... with my mom.
One thing I've done in my life that I'm not too proud of is ... being with a couple of girls at once.



Ben Staaden
The best part of my body is ... prone to having a mind of its own. My biggest part of my body is ... my heart. When I'm alone at home the thing I like to do the most is ... cruise around in the nude. I try not to get too drunk because the last time I did ... I had a lot of explaining to do.

LOCATION: WESTIN PHILIPPINE PLAZA POOLSIDE

UNDERWEAR BY BENCH AND IMPETUS (AVAILABLE AT RUSTANS)

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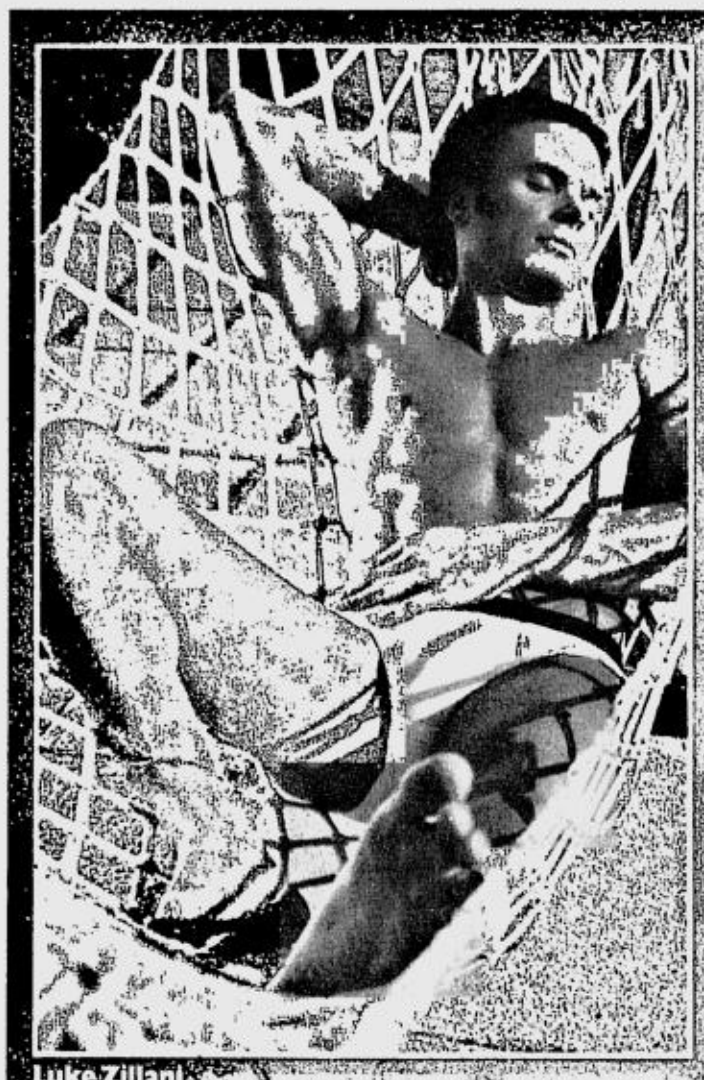
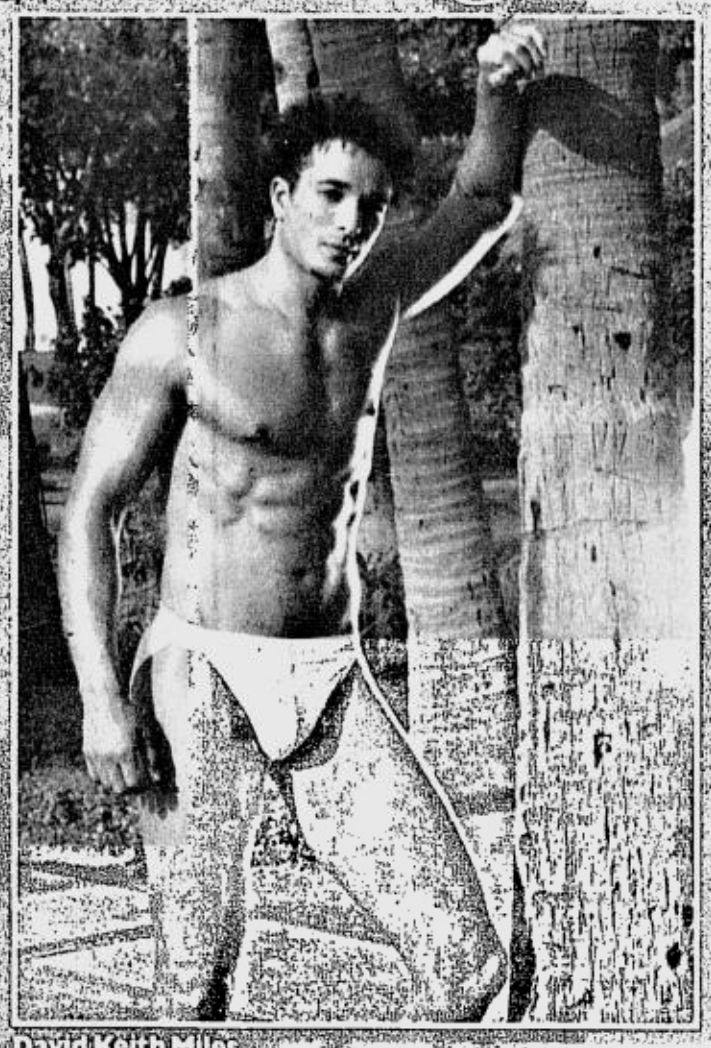


Luke Zillani
My wildest fantasy is... Flight Bondage. My weird fetish is... feet. One thing I've done in my life that I'm not too proud of is... I stole a few girlfriends at once.



David Keith Miles
My wildest fantasy is... Filipino women. I try not to get too drunk because the last time I did - that's ever happened to me on a date, was not liking the food (I'm fussy).

Going Down Under

It's a Vegas-type show where we reveal more and more as we wear less and less and the ladies scream louder and louder

By Jay Santos
Photos by Luke Vargas

LAST Tuesday, Super got a little face time with the boys of Thunder From Down Under at a poolside photo shoot.

When it came time to shed their clothes and change in to the underwear that the stylist brought over for the shoot the boys teased and said the scare too small. They must be Filipino size. They put on anyway.

Keith David Miles told me how the group got started, what they do in the show, and who they're dating. Catch him and the rest of the Thunder tonight and tomorrow night at the Casino Filipino Amphitheater. G'day mates!

Super: So how'd you boys get your name?

We were originally called Manpower Australia about 15 years ago. Then a few years back one of the MC decided it was time for a change and re-dubbed us Thunder From Down Under.

Oh so you were those guys 15 years ago? You guys look pretty good for your age now.

No no. The original members are no longer around. The troupes keep adding new guys.

Troupes? You mean there's more than one?

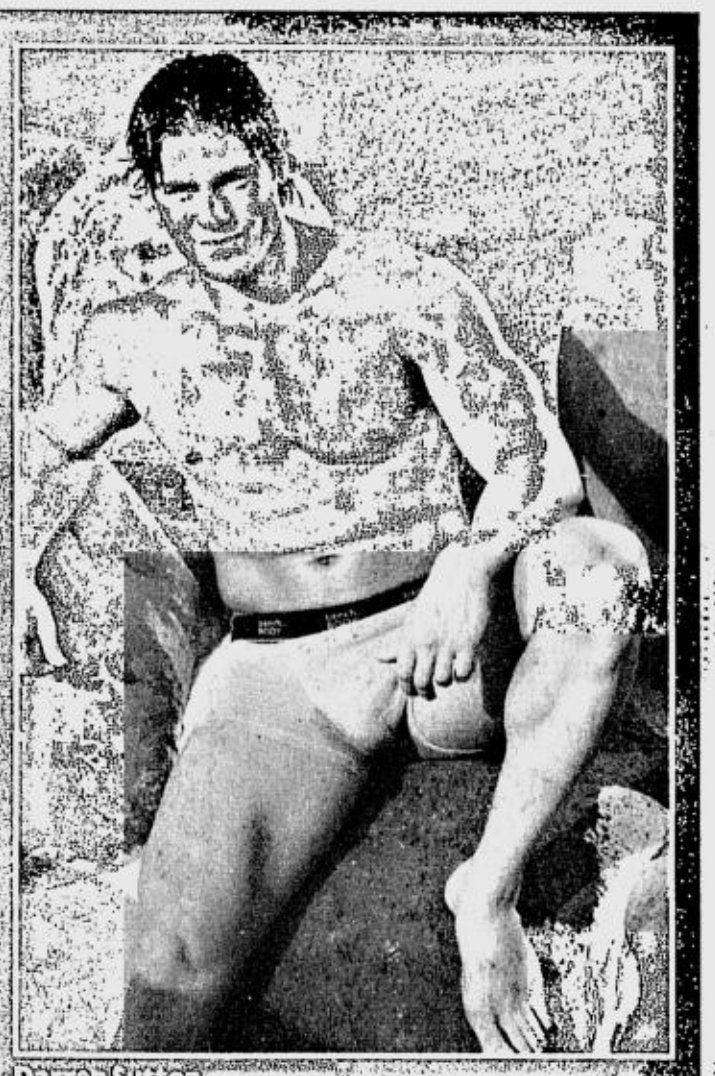
Yeah mate. We've got a troupe in Las Vegas right now. Another in Melbourne. Before Manila, my troupe was in Mexico. Our next stops are the United States and New Zealand.

Our female readers will shoot me if I don't ask this question. Are you boys single?

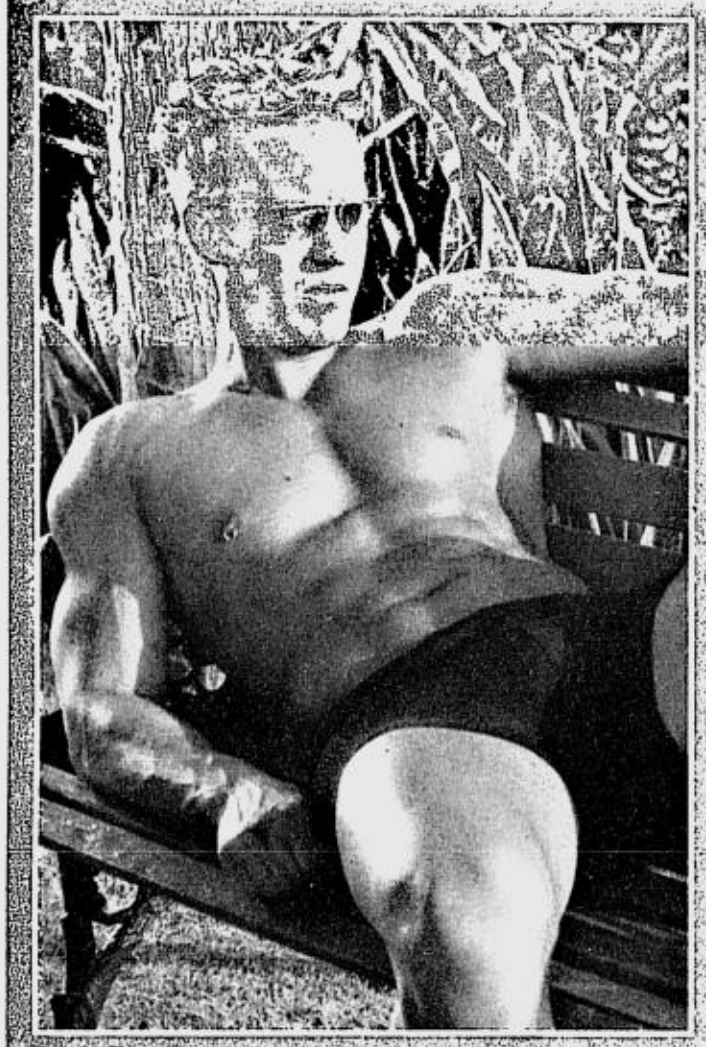
Yep we're all available.

What's most fun about being with Thunder?

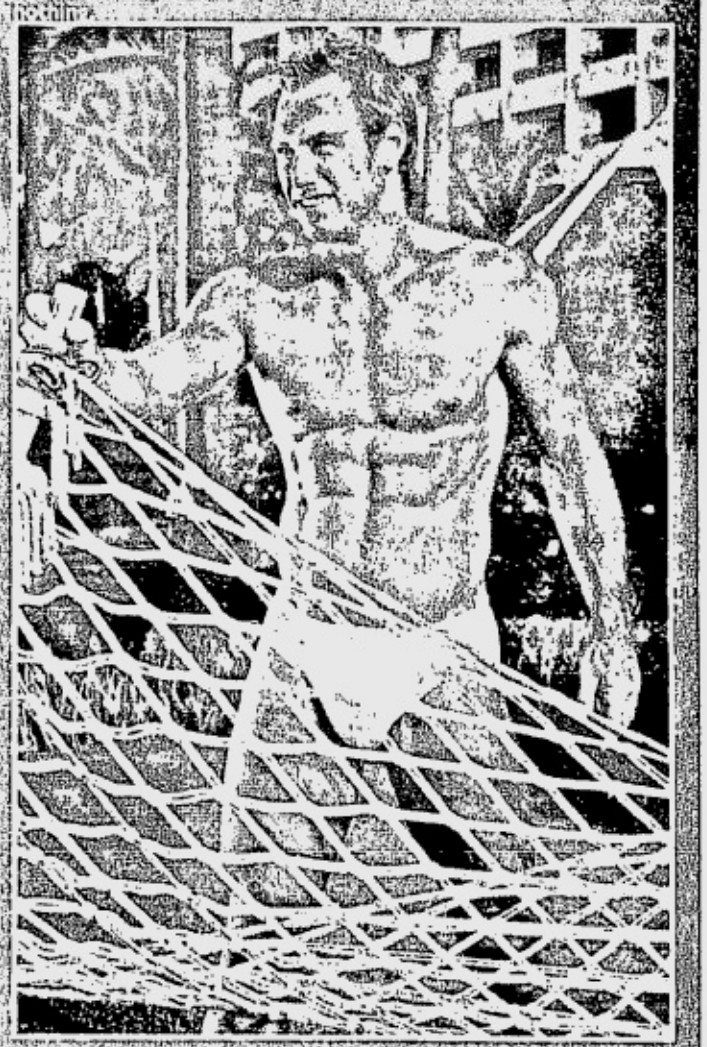
We're treated like rock stars. We get to see the world and meet lots of interesting people and cultures.



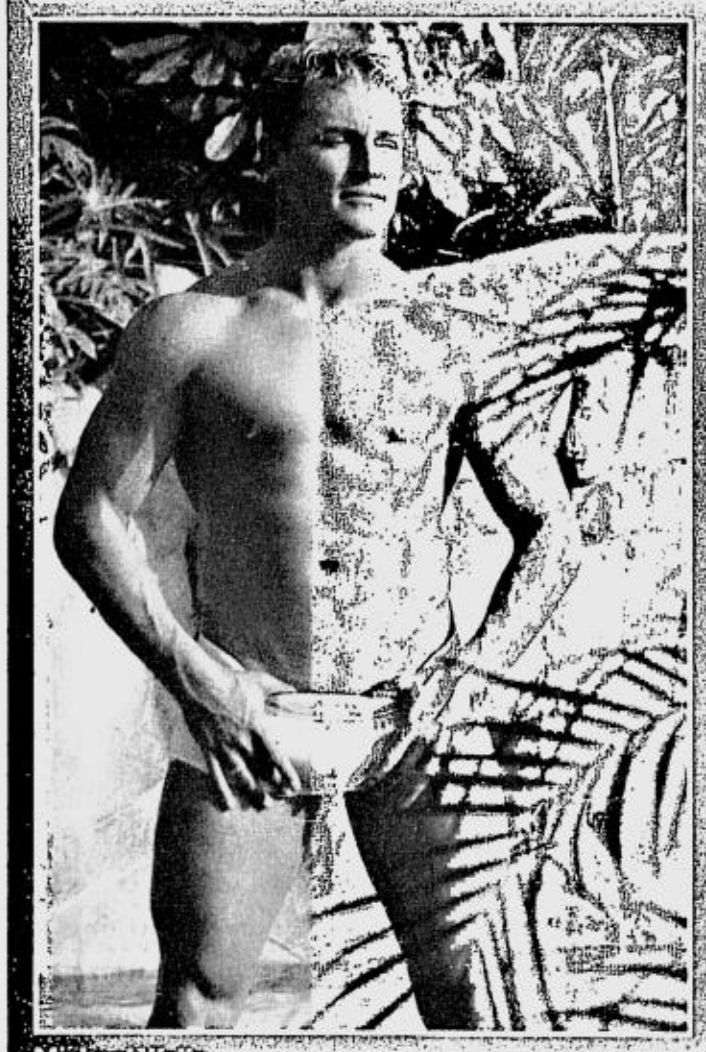
Darren Sutton
My wildest fantasy is... being on a beach with heaps of beautiful girls. The worst thing that's ever happened to me on a date was... having nothing to say to the girl. When I go to bed I always wear... nothing.



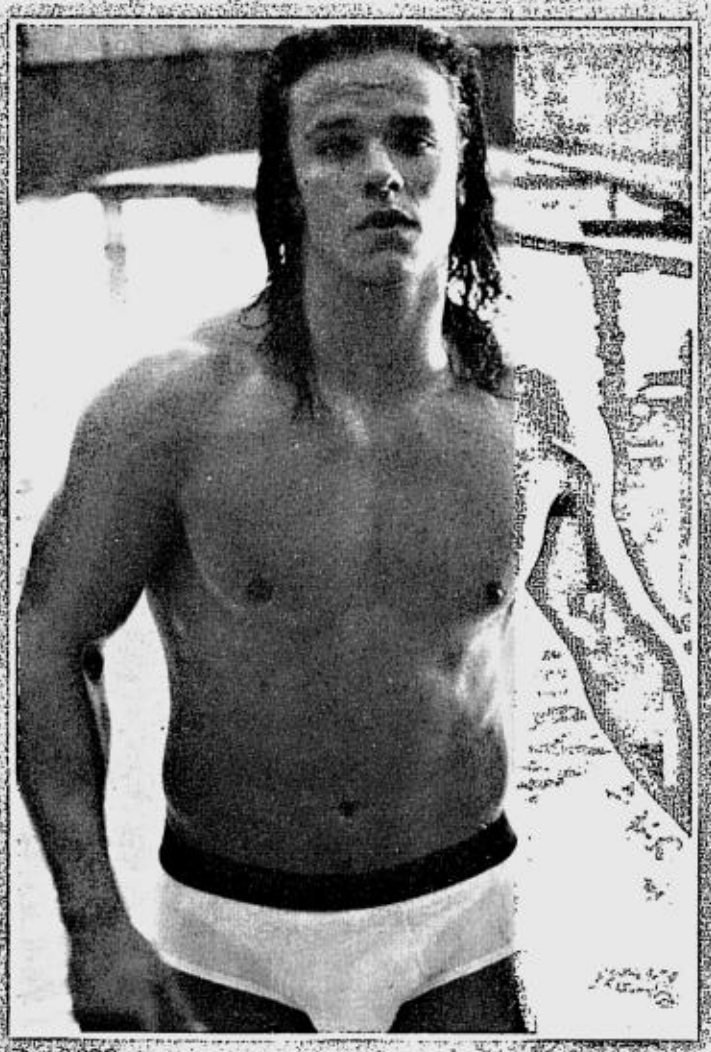
Scott Reading
What I go to bed I always wear... underwear. My weird fetish is... I would have to show you. My idea of a romantic date is... dinner by the water at sunset with a bottle of wine. One thing I've done in my life that I'm not too proud of is... can't tell you.



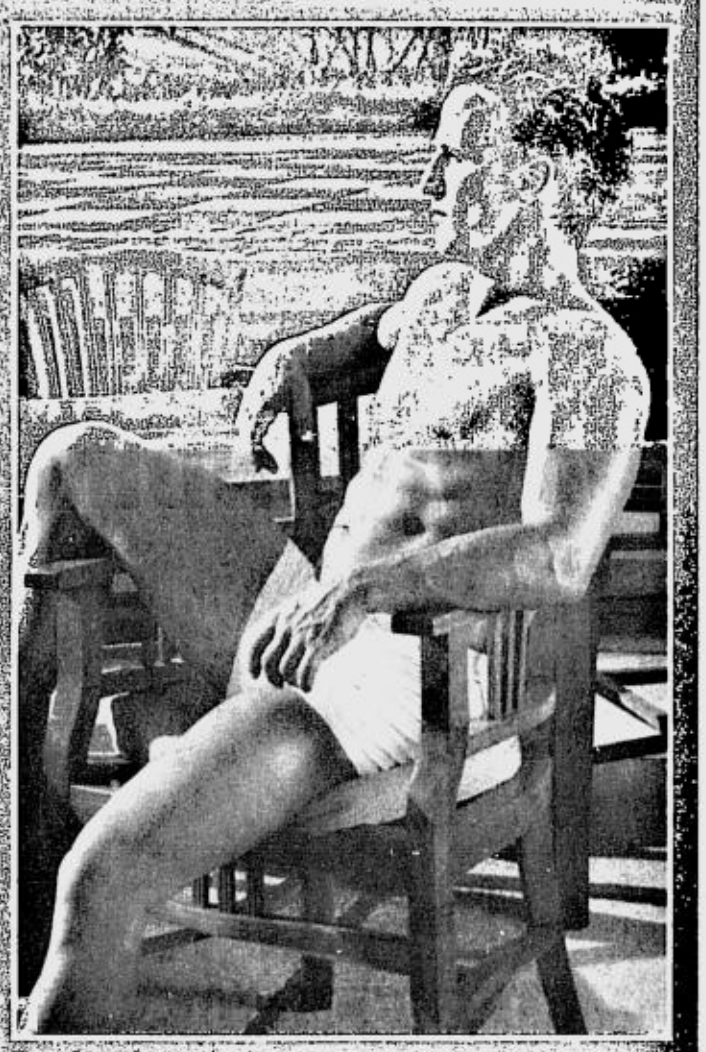
Michael Cooper
The last time I fell in love was... last night. I try not to get too drunk because the last time I did... I made a fool of myself. My weird fetish is... girls, girls, girls.



Michael Wells
The thing I find most attractive with women is... their curves. I try not to get too drunk because the last time I did... I lost my car. My weird fetish is... Filipina women. One thing I've always wanted to do but haven't done yet is... go out with a Filipina girl.



David Moore
My wildest fantasy is... on a log boat drifting on the ocean. The last time I fell in love was... with my mom. One thing I've done in my life that I'm not too proud of is... being with a couple of girls at once.



Ben Staaden
The best part of my body is... prone to having a mind of its own. My biggest part of my body is... my heart. When I'm alone at home the thing I like to do the most is... cruise around in the nude. I try not to get too drunk because the last time I did... I had a lot of explaining to do.

LOCATION: WESTIN PHILIPPINE PLAZA POOLSIDE

UNDERWEAR BY BENCH AND IMPETUS (AVAILABLE AT RUSTANS)

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CHEAT happens

Haaay, Fidelity

It is a twisted, complicated abstraction disguised as a simple concept of noble intent—like a pretzel pretending to be a doughnut.

Chuck Dy

DEAR Man About Town,

I started going out with a very nice man a few weeks ago. We're just getting to know each other, but already I can tell he is my type of guy. Only problem is, he's a bit of a playboy. In fact, I know he was not completely faithful during his last relationship. My friends have warned me to be wary because "a leopard doesn't change his spots." But when I confronted him about this, he swore he had changed his ways and that he was a different man. I've had my heart broken before and I'm not looking forward to the same experience anytime soon. What's a girl to do?

Dear Marc Nelson,

When this column started a few months ago, I thought it would be a snap. But as the weeks go by and problems crowd my email, I find that I am ill-prepared for the avalanche of inquiry apparently infecting the community. The mind-numbing task of regularly commiserating with strangers has taken its toll on my body. Bed-wetting, paranoia, diarrhea, a nervous twitch in my left eye, Tourette syndrome, and an affinity for old Kris Aquino massacre movies, are just a few of the disorders I have recently developed. You seem to be much more adept at addressing these problems. How do you do it? Please help me, as I may be dead soon, or worse, a fan of Magic Kitchen.

P.S. Your file photo looks so much better than mine.

On the back of an American dollar bill we will find the adage, "In God We Trust." God is about the only thing we can and should *totally* trust nowadays. Not our friends who are only human. Not the government, which is a caricature of civilization. Not jeepney drivers with an innate sense of bloodlust and no sense of direction. Not even the natural world, which is beginning to realize that man is a destructive species (my hamster bit me last week). And especially not some John Doe who cheated on his last girlfriend. But does that mean we shouldn't take a chance?

Fidelity is a twisted, complicated abstraction disguised as a simple concept of noble intent—like a pretzel pretending to be a doughnut. We oversimplify its definition when, in truth, it is a hydra-headed amalgamation, the bastard child of Freudian angst and Catholic guilt. We think that if our partner has never cheated (sex, kissing, intense flirting, long walks on the beach) on us then he is faithful. Does mental devotion also count? If so, I can guarantee that there is not a single person on the planet who has not, never, absolutely, succumbed to the fantasy of another partner—except my current girlfriend, who is made of high-grade plastic and was manufactured in Japan.

Also, we tend to blame the lack of fidelity as the reason most couples become history. We almost never concede that faithlessness can be symptomatic of deeper problems—like halitosis. Once, my friend's wife berated him severely for having bad breath. A week later, he hooked up with the take-out girl in Tapa King, who apparently did not mind the smell of garlic during their kissing bouts. There is no moral to this story (put down your telephones, you feminist zealots), except that the concept of fidelity is less elementary than we often give it credit it for. Each individual relationship must be handled on a case-to-case basis—no generalizations. If you want specific answers, you must ask specific questions.

Question your environment. The world is an imperfect place populated by fascinatingly imperfect people. Ever since Adam and Eve decided to add fruit to their diet, mankind has discovered a multitude of ways to make mistakes. But it is this very tendency of humans to err that makes progress possible and life so interesting. Imagine a Utopian paradise where bus drivers understood basic traffic laws, politicians lived within their legal incomes, and flatulence was the only real weapon of mass destruction. What a great

HAAAY/ I4

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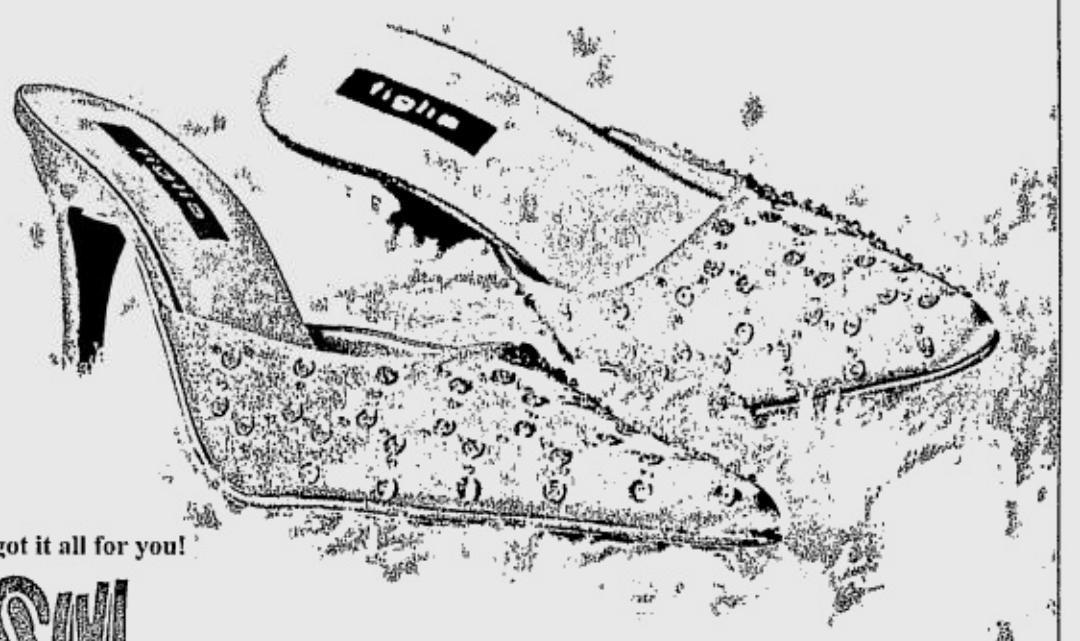
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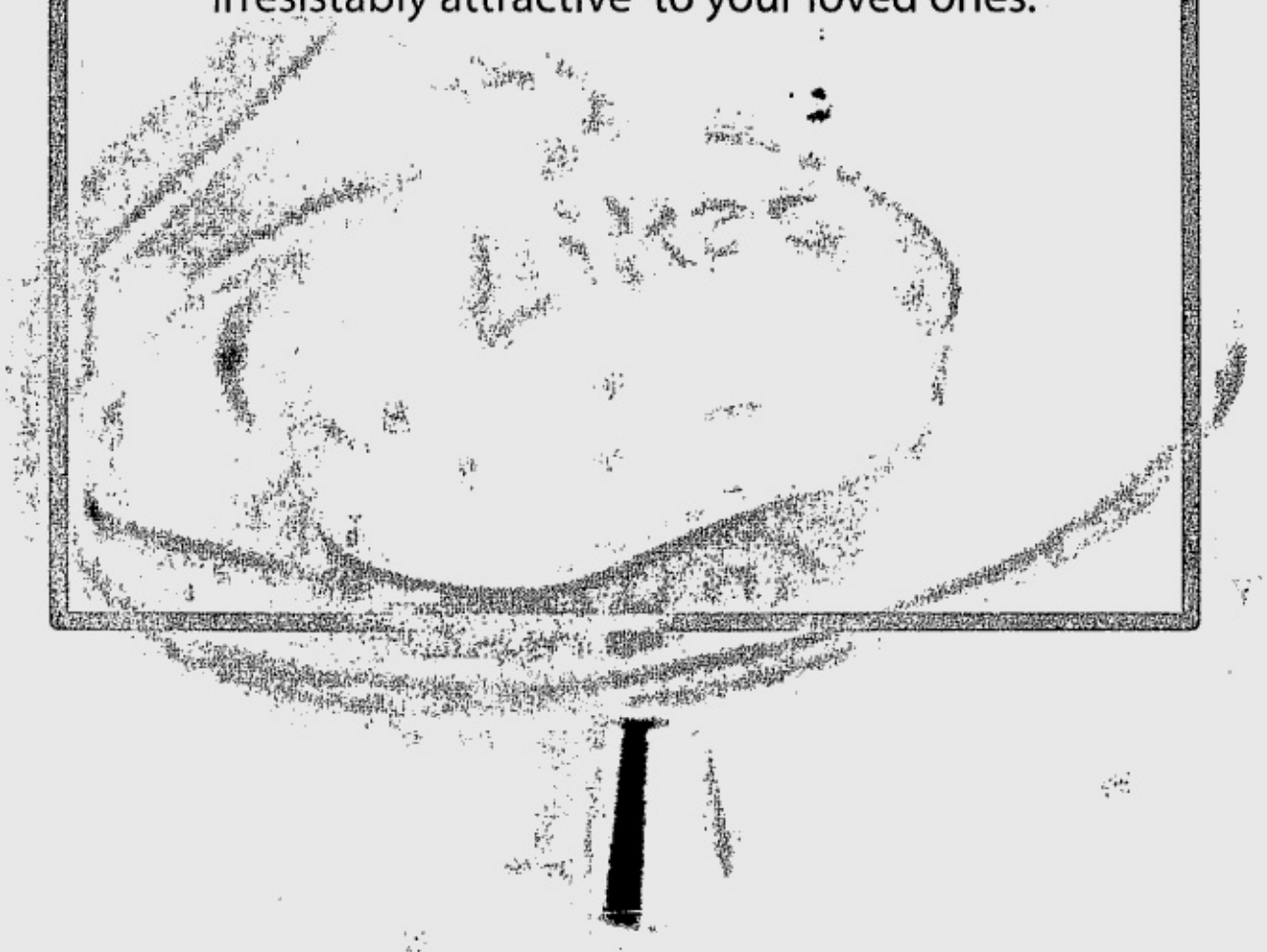

"Ikaw rin... you might end-up having too many dates this Valentine's Day."

Likas Papaya is available in 135 grams & 30 grams mini pack.

Who will reign in this year's MTV Asia Awards?

THE 2004 MTV Asia Awards is going to be scorching hot with top Asian artists confirmed to be sighted at the event. Vanness Wu from Taiwan's superstar pop band F4 and star of the popular "Meteor Garden" series will be hosting the event alongside internationally renowned Michelle Branch to set millions of hearts a flutter today. Stars from the region coming to bring the house to a fever pitch include Han Hong and Sun Nan (China); Iwan Fals, Mocca and Audy (Indonesia); BoA (Korea); Too Phat, Siti Sarah, Misha Omar and Siti Nurhaliza (Malaysia); Rivermaya (Philippines); Tanya Chua (Singapore); Armchair, Blackhead, "Bird" Thongchai McIntyre, Boyd Kosiyabong, Parn-Thanaporn and Tata Young (Thailand). They join the previously announced hot acts, 5566, Black Eyed Peas, Blue, Gareth Gates, Liberty X, Simple Plan and Stacie Orrico at the event, and there are more to come.

Mandopop superstar, Vanness Wu, will sure be spurring the crowd on with 'declarations of love' at the biggest music event

MICHELLE branching out

in Asia at the Singapore Indoor Stadium. Known for his versatility and eloquence, Vanness rose to fame in the music arena and small screens with the popular TV series 'Meteor Garden.' One of the hottest heartthrobs among the F4 quartet, he made inroads with his solo album Body Will Sing in 2002 and is undoubtedly revered in Asia as a phenomenal star, sweeping Taiwan, Korea, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia by storm before conquering the hearts of millions in the Philippines. Watch the chemistry grow and the sparks fly between

VANESS Wu is me

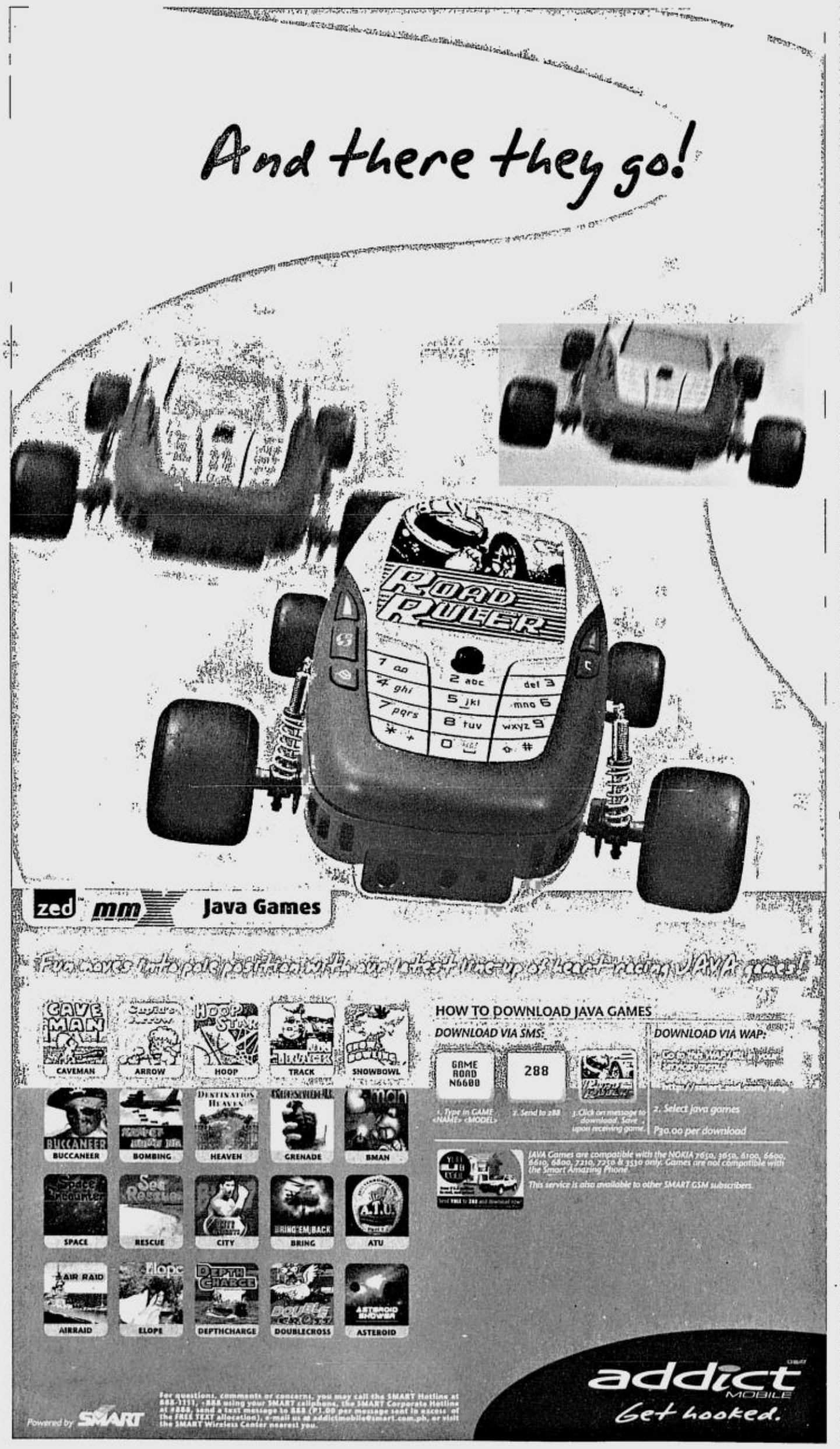
Vanness and Michelle throughout the evening and savor this rare opportunity to witness these two superstars from the East and West in collaboration.

Carrying the Philippine banner, Rivermaya is a new entrant to the Favorite Artist Philippines category and will grace the event and share centerstage with some of the admired musical artists in the region and the world, cementing their place in Philippine music history. Winner of the MTV Pilipinas Favorite Band of 2003 category and a veteran band who has been in the music business for over 10 years, Rivermaya returns stronger than ever with its ever-so-cool attitude that reverberates throughout their music.

For the first time ever in the history of the MAA, MTV Philippines will stage an MTV Asia Awards Viewing Party. It will be the coolest exclusive Valentine bash on Feb. 14 at the Fort Open Grounds (in front of Pier One) featuring Makiling Ensemble, Bamboo & Kapatid. Plus you get to watch the MTV Asia Awards Live from Singapore. There will be sumptuous food, refreshing drinks, exciting games, cool prizes, and of course —the best music channel in the world—MTV—providing you an exclusive view of the MAAs! What more can you ask for?

SMB Play and Addict Mobile are the local sponsors that made this local viewing party possible!

More information about the show and nominees as well as the latest updates on the MTV Asia Awards can be found on the official website at http://www.mtvasiaawards.com .



Calling . . .

From page 11

My name is Kat Tan.
The best thing about being single is you can do whatever you want.
The worst thing is when you see couples sweet and you don't have anyone to be sweet to.
Tonight I'll be at Greenbelt 2.
My best kiss was with my present date.
My worst kiss was with this guy who had braces.
Please send kisses to mkatt8@yahoo.com.

My name is Kevin Christopher Torres.
The best thing about being single is being able to do whatever you want.
The worst thing is it gets boring after a while.
Tonight I'll be at Greenbelt.
My best Kiss was my first. It's great when you have to figure out what to do along the way.
My worst kiss was with a girl with halitosis, but I loved her so I pretended not to notice—for a month.
Please send kisses to pe220_di_merda@eudoramail.com.

My name is Jojo Toral.
The best thing about being single is freedom, I can do whatever I want.
The worst thing is there are times you need someone to rely on emotionally.
Tonight I'll be at Hongkong for a date.
Please send kisses to jojotoral@hotmail.com.

My name is Jason Postulka.
The best thing about being single is that going to a bar is like a buffet.
The worst thing is often you can't take them home with you.
Tonight I'll be at some random bar.
The best kiss is below the belt.
The worst kiss was when a gay dude tried in Malate when I wasn't looking. He ended up kissing my shoulder.
Please send kisses to the writer of this article. She's cool.

MY name is Chiza Nobleza.
The best thing about being single is more dates.
The worst thing is nothing.
Tonight I'll be at home.
My best kiss was... I've never been kissed
The worst kiss would be with someone who smokes
Please send kisses to chiza_18@18yahoo.com.

Haaay, Fidelity

From page 13

world that would be—for all of 20 minutes. Sure, there would be no reason for worries, but neither would there be need for change, or for the human spirit. No songs by John Lennon, no rousing speeches by Martin Luther King, no stories by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Couples who suffer no setbacks in the course of their relationships rarely grow. I'll take my chances in a flawed democratic romance rather than salute a totalitarian, and stagnant, holding-of-hands under Fidelity Castro.

Question your partner. Your friends warn that a leopard does *not* change spots. And a porcupine does not lose his quills, and a horny toad will always be horny. Your friends have to stop dating animals. The first instinct may be to run away from a potential cheater, but then again, isn't everybody a potential cheater? I concur that a person who has cheated on his last 10 partners may be one to shy away from, but there are no guarantees that somebody who has demonstrated profound loyalty in past relationships will not break your heart, either. My point is, don't be so frightened of how he *could* make you cry, that it obscures the possibilities of how he might make you smile. If he lived *la vida loca* before, then take the Ricky out of his Martin! Get to know him better, make yourself indispensable, discuss your fondness for kitchen knives and your conviction that infidelity should be punishable by public crucifixion.

Question your self. Reluctance to enter a new relationship because of a prior experience indicates lack of closure—I read that in "Chicken Soup for the Severely Damaged Soul." You claim this new man injects a spark into your life; that is fantastic. But if you can't claim to be happy without a man, then his fidelity is the least of your concerns. Simply put, you've got to love yourself before you can start loving anyone else. As cliché as that sounds, that's all there is to it.

There are no guarantees in life or love. All we can do is make the best of what we're given. Like George Michael sang, you've got to have faith (and if you're as sexually active as he is, you've also got to have Trust). My final advice is, take it slow and go with the flow; enjoy the courtship period and utilize this time to assess what kind of person he is, what kind of person you are, and what kind of couple you would be together. Question life, question love, question him and question your person. And when all else fails, Question Marc.

(E-mail author at bohemiansamurai@yahoo.com; e-mail Marc Nelson at questionmarc@hotmail.com)

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WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

SIDE A

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ROBINSONS Galleria

Heartburn

SHE speaks, but I can hardly understand her because her language is a hybrid of two different tongues. While her physical form is pleasing to the eye, little else about her merits much positive attention. She loves pink. Her entire persona can be described in one word: *pa*-cute. Who is she? Here's a clue:

SWAK!

by Lex

Interviewer: Do you feel like an adult now?

Interviewee: No! Compared to before I mean, like now I talk sense *na*, you know what I mean. Before I like make-up, I like this, I like clothes, I'm always like "Oh My God!" *ganon*, but now *parang* I wanna be quiet *na lang* let's be mysterious *naman*.

Thank goodness, I wasn't the interviewer! Had I been, I can think of a hundred violent acts my pen can be used for. Ultimately, the pen is mightier than the sword. And provoked, even Ghandi-esque writers like myself might be moved to take extreme measures. Honestly, how can I turn the other cheek when faced with, among other things, the total obliteration of proper speech?!

Shot through the Heart

Heart Evangelista is one of my pet peeves. One of the reasons is that she represents all that is safe in the world. Case in point: every single time Heart is interviewed she spews canned show biz answers that are rehashed versions of the stuff Sharon used decades ago. Which leads me to ask, "Helloooo … is there anyone in there?" Or is the fluffy pink shell all that we'll ever get?

As the current "it" girl of endorsements, advertisers obviously feel that Heart is the perfect representation of today's female teen, with her being sugar 'n' spice and everything nice, bland as a white board, and with that constant smile plastered on her face. I truly hope they are wrong. That's why I love it when Alessandra de Rossi speaks her mind on-cam, without remorse. At least she is acting less like a show biz clone and more like a normal human being.

After all, kids nowadays come in all sorts of packages, and sport a wide array of personalities. It's this originality that should be nurtured and encouraged by society. Precisely because each one is unique, every single human being is fascinating. Unfortunately, when it comes to pushing the envelope and being a role model for kids who should be speaking their minds, clearly and succinctly, with conviction and purpose, Heart isn't exactly the leader of the pack. Instead she, and many of her ABS-CBN buddies, choose to play it safe, almost as if they are worried that if they let their real personalities through it won't be good enough for their fans.

Singing causes rain

One highlight of Heart's career in 2003 was her winning Best Performance of a New Female Artist in the Awit Awards for her song "Love Has Come My Way." Am I the only one who has noticed that Heart can't sing? What were the judges thinking! Even Patricia Javier (another nominee) sings better. Well, on second thought, maybe it's a tie.

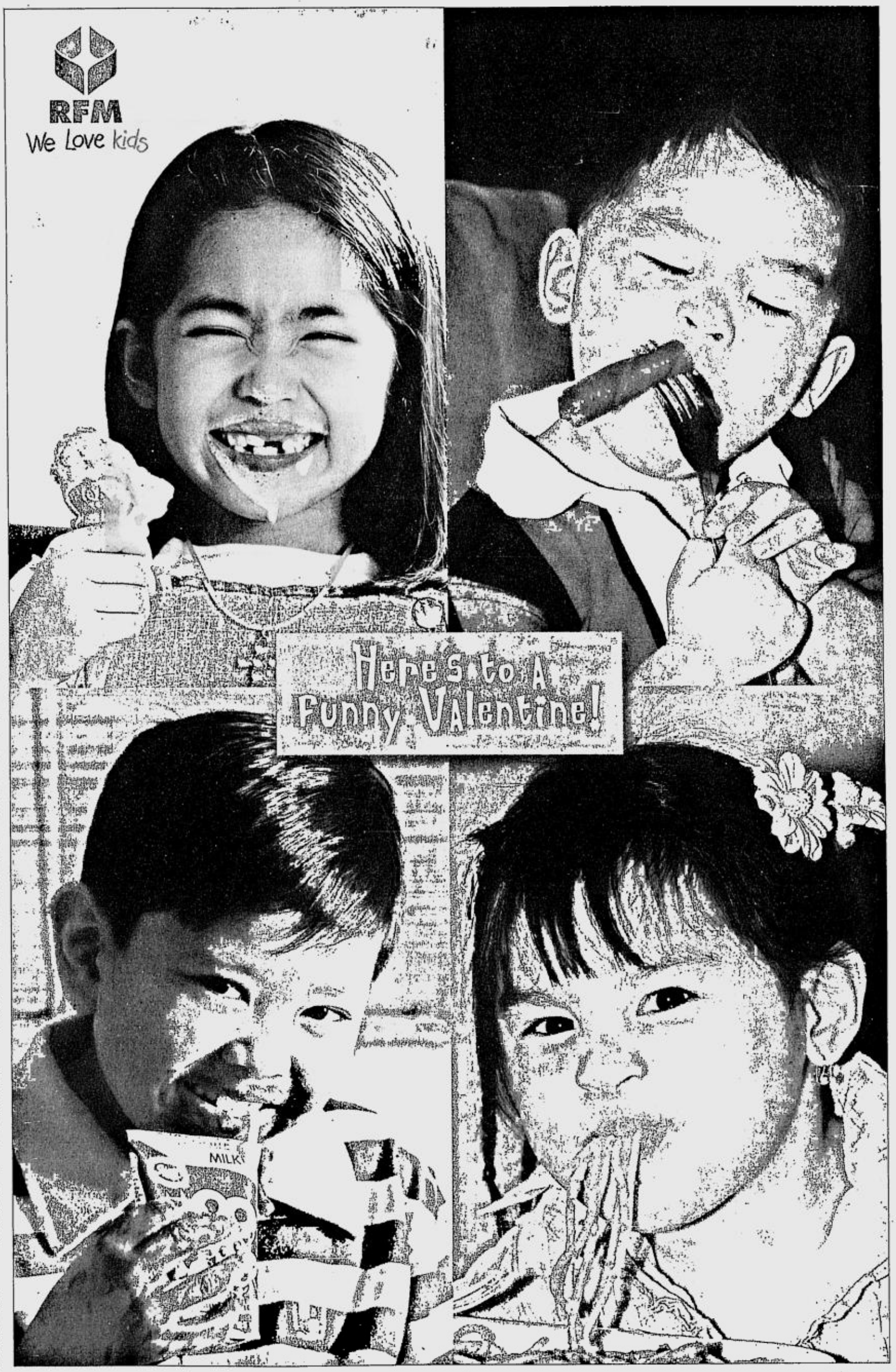
Despite the pain it inflicts, many of our tone-deaf artistas are forced to sing on weekend variety shows. Why can't singers just be singers, and actors just actors? Why can't show biz denizens be allowed to act like real people, instead of the cookie-cutter caricatures and Misses Goody Two Shoes that they present themselves to be?

No more Heart-ache

Every generation has bitched about their younger counterparts. As I write, something has dawned on me, something truly frightening. Maybe I am whining about this kid because I've become so old that I just don't get it? Maybe she's communicating in a language that all these teens understand, and although I'm only in my 20s, I've already transformed into the un-cool *lolo* who is so out of the loop I might as well be an alien? Maybe Heart is just a kid who doesn't know any better, and will eventually look back on her interviews and say, "Can the earth please just swallow me up alive, I can't believe I said that?"

Growing up on-cam comes at a very steep

HEARTBURN/J3



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Dysfunctional idols

VERY JUDGMENTAL. If there are openings, I'd like to apply.

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

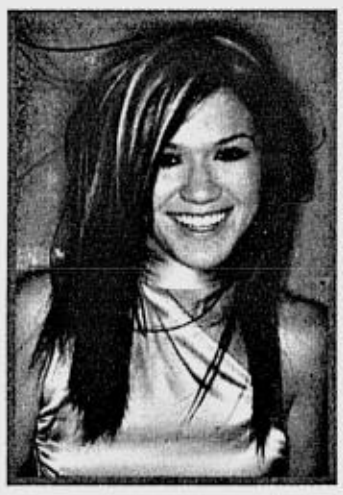
As a quest for tomorrow's superstars, does this talent search merely hunt for youths who could be polished to factory sheen?

THERE'S something out there that's apparently more frightening than carbs in these Atkins-obsessed times, and his name is Simon Cowell. As a judge on "American Idol," Fox TV's latest weapon of mass distraction, Cowell has been the object of undeniable hatred due to his on-the-money and generally crippling appraisals of wannabe singers. Alternately described as "Mr. Nasty" and "Butthole," he's the accidental star of this small screen circus. With verdicts ranging from the vivid ("That was musical food poisoning!") to the succinct ("No! No! No! Never!"), Cowell might be considered the token evil dragon in the search for the Holy Grail of stardom. Despite his satanic DNA, I must admit I like the way he slays the gift-less ones. In a world of neat bundles, rags-to-riches tales, and happy endings, he sure puts the "reality" in "reality TV."

About two years ago, I sprinted home from university to catch the first-ever "American Idol" which featured large-lunged Texan Kelly Clarkson and her starry-eyed friends. (Her smash "A Moment Like This" is total cheese, but hearing it brings back a flood of memories.) Other than that, only "The Amazing Race" and a "Trading Spaces" marathon made me skip beer and wings at the pub and my roommate's Latino-themed birthday *fiesta* downtown. That's how nuts I was, and still am, for this nastier and more entertaining paraphrase of "Star Search." I mean, apart from the people who flopped big-time, who isn't?

Bitchier

See, the premise of "American Idol" is deceptively simple. Together with a bunch of trusted lackeys, Fox Television's Rupert Murdoch issues a dysfunctional human cattle call across strategic cities of the United States. After the suckers, er, contestants sign up, the crisis management team hands them Dasani water bottles laced with something that purges


THE LOOKS, THE VOICE, OR THE LUCK? Kelly is the pride of Texas.

SIMON SAYS. The most hated man in music today.

the last iota of human dignity. (In a lot of cases, the same drug causes hearing impairment and a type-A Messiah Complex. Just ask the thousands of spurned participants who vowed revenge with their future "hit records.")

As soon as the cameras start rolling, the freaks come out of the woodwork. By freaks, I mean the judges. Diamonds-in-the-rough also magically turn up from among the heavy rotation of crappy aspirants. These pleasant bombshells are promptly Fedexed to Hollywood, where they are subjected to even more "expert" scrutiny. When their numbers boil down to a dozen backstabbing, could-be Idols, the audience is summoned to chug bottles of similarly spiked *agua*, burn the phone lines, and vote for their favorites. Two are cut from the herd every week until the most popular one—not necessarily the best-looking or best-sounding—wins a load of cash, a recording contract, and the dubious title "American Idol."

Okay, that's not exactly how it goes, but it's close. Hosted by perma-tanned Ryan Seacrest, "American Idol" is definitely king of the ratings game and is more addicting than "Punk'd" and "The Newlyweds." So there.

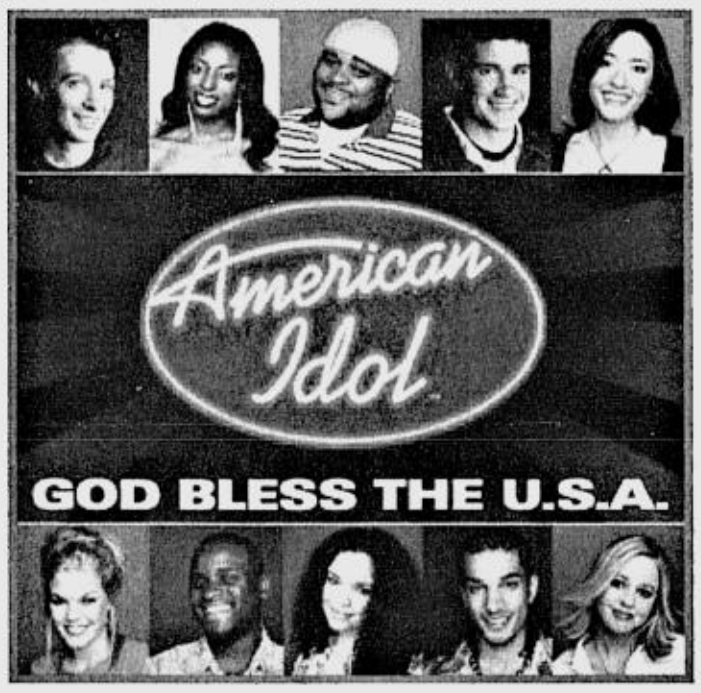
Context is everything

Branding is essential to all types of cultural commerce and, true to form, "American Idol" is all about the Benjamins as well. Randy Jackson, Paula Abdul, and Simon Cowell are sifting for a voice they can train, a face they can sell, and an attitude they can micromanage. In short, those three powerful stooges want a mainstream act that can zoom to the top of the charts, not a niche artist who thrives on mere heat-seeker status. Those who didn't get that memo have spotted "American Idol 3" with false starts, making the first two episodes an intense chuckle fest.

AKO SI MR. SUAVE. Mr. Ritchson, it's Playgirl on Line 2.

In Atlanta, Simon Thomas tried in vain to mimic Moby mimicking Jesus Christ, the original idol, hoping to show 29 million viewers the "goodness of his heart." With a sad shake of the head, his shot at fame was quashed altogether, even if his halo never dimmed. Back in Houston, Beyoncé's home turf, Harvard grad and overachiever Fookling Lee did leave an impression, but a horrible one. For someone who claimed to have come from a family of musicians, Fookling spooked the free world by singing, according to referee Randy Jackson, "like a ghost." To sum up the judges' knack for put-downs, a bawling AI cast-off had this to say: "Those who can't, criticize."

Or can they? Let's have a look at the talentspotters. Simon, who will carry out his style of decapitation until 2006, is the head of A&R at RCA. He's responsible for signing up such names as Kelly Osbourne's nemesis Christina Aguilera in the US. In the UK, he introduced Westlife, Will Young, Gareth Gates, S Club Juniors, and the now-defunct S Club. Youngest brother of ultra-creepy Michael, Randy Jackson joined the legendary Jackson 5 as replacement for normal brother Jermaine in 1976. With that connection, his involvement with the show is somewhat justified. But the height of absurdity is that one of the judges is Paula Abdul, who is taking a stab at relevance herself. A washed-up ex-cheerleader with helium-filled pipes, Paula is the last line of defense. Many call her the "nice one," but this is show biz, so her sunny disposition could likely be as phony as Janet Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction" at the Super Bowl XXXVIII half-time. As the case of jailbird Martha Stewart shows, personalities who hide behind a façade of congeniality are the most manipulative and therefore, the most evil—if "South Park" is to be believed. On the other hand, Paula may genuinely have a soul after all, since she folded like a house of cards when Alan "Mr. Body" Ritchson gave her a surprise lapdance. Seems both critics and aspirants are in this talent show not only to win, but to reorient themselves and their careers at any cost.



THEM AGAINST THE MUSIC. Ruben (top center) with last year's freaks.

Glorified karaoke?

We're supposedly living in the age of individuality, but how can you be your own person when you aren't original? Simon, Randy, and Paula were at odds with what to do with Contestant #15915, Kiira Bivens. A Mandy Moore clone with Christina Aguilera vocals, 16-year-old Kiira was a custom-made composite of existing celebrities with only a yodel to set her apart. It's true, though; "American Idol" tends to ride on the same coattails as a glorified karaoke contest. So how can our generation create historical impact when we're too busy learning from our peers and singing lyrics like, "I am getting so hot, I wanna take my clothes off?" I'm convinced that's a valid point. Look at it this way: Christina wanted to be Mariah and Whitney at 16. That holds true for most teens and twentysomethings today who are in dire need of idols to worship, whether they're American, Canadian, or Martian.

After all, idols aren't real; they're symbols. The judges made it clear that diva-style histrionics wouldn't be tolerated since all things OTT, or over the top, are just that: over. As a quest for tomorrow's superstars, does "American Idol" merely hunt for youths who could be polished to factory sheen? Where does this leave pop culture one-offs like Marge Simpson sound-alike Macy Gray, the gravel-voiced Kurt Cobain, and the sorely missed Jeff Buckley? Is there enough room for those who possess a patina of character and raw genius?

World showdown

If the recently concluded "World Idol" competition is any indication, then there's a speck of hope. The slight forward push came when the world turned upside down and chose the ugliest competitor in a sea of hot wannabes. Norwegian Idol Kurt "The Hobbit" Nilsen bagged first prize by performing U2's "Beautiful Day" with the solemnity of a national anthem. After being taunted by, of course, Mr. Nasty ("This is not Middle Earth Idol!"), Kurt's victory must have been damn sweet. The score now stands: Tolkien 1 - Puzzled Audience 0. In my opinion, Malaysian-born Aussie bet Guy Sebastian should've swiped it with his neo-soul rendition of "What A Wonderful World" and distinct afro. He did look offbeat, but at least he didn't sound like he faxed in his song.

Fragmented accounts have it that "Singapore Idol" will be launched real soon. As the religion of "American Idol" spreads, will other internationally insignificant versions pop up, too? Is the first "Native American Idol," "Pop Stars Kazakhstan," or "Bolivian Juniors" about to make a cameo at a TV near you? Needless to say, feckless weirdos who are prone to stink things up on a global level would follow whatever talent these franchises unearth. That would make so many ears bleed, but the succeeding competitions would become more of a serious show-stopper and less a school play. The performance of the most popular Idol, Kelly Clarkson, earlier this year was expectedly watertight but I felt a surge of relief when she wound up second. With a platinum record and a growing worldwide fan base, she didn't need the extra gravy. If I'm not mistaken, not-skinny Ruben Studdard will step up to the plate at next year's "World Idol" and I wonder if he'll live up to the hype. Will it be a rough ride for him or will his celebrity status in the US guarantee the gold? I'm just thinking out loud here because really now, does the world need another American Idol? What would Simon say?

(Are they idols or idiots? Holler back at super@inquirer.com.ph)

GREETINGS FROM MIDDLE EARTH. Was this "World Idol" or "Punk'd?"

The game of the rose

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

The day Cupid got scratched off my Most Wanted list

FROM the moment an influx of hormones hit the pre-pubescent populace of my old high school, there was born a new calendar date that I dreaded more than the day of the Math finals. It was the one day that always managed to make my self-confidence plummet to the nether regions of crap, a day that made me wonder whether I was an unloved freak of nature. Once upon a fourteenth of February, I could not put the word "Happy" beside "Valentine's Day."

It was on this one date that roses of every size and bloodstained shade would be delivered to all the usual suspects in school. You guessed it—the pretty, sought-after females of my batch who seemed to live for this holiday. I remember this one girl would even bring an extra paper bag to school every V- Day because she was sure to harvest a field of plucked blooms. (And while I'm on the subject, how irritating is that?) Each time a messenger would knock on the classroom door to carry out Cupid's orders cloaked in huge bouquets of red roses, I'd secretly wish that good karma from studying hard and memorizing the Periodic Table of Elements would finally kick in; that my name would be called out as the recipient of those flowers. Well, let's just say that good karma took a helluva sweet time in paying me a visit. That was how it was back then, year after year, February 14 after February 14, up until I finished high school.

Yeah, you could say it was pretty ego-smashing, the thought that not a single male specimen in that whole class of more than 300 students found me worthy enough to honor with a freakin' flower. Not even a plastic one. I would walk home from school on Valentine afternoon secretly envious of girls passing by, whose school bags were accessorized with a bright bloom.

Heart of darkness

College life was thankfully a different story. Somehow, being the same bookwormy kid from high school was a bit of a premium in the university. I met a bunch of interesting guys whom I seriously connected with, guys who actually made me feel less of a circus freak. And yes, it came to pass that I did have a boyfriend for the first time on Valentine's Day in my freshman year. I'm almost embarrassed to admit that I was pretty excited that morning, wondering whether I'd be greeted with chocolates, cutout hearts or—gasp—even a red, plastic rose!

Imagine my surprise when I espied my paramour walking down the quadrangle—bedecked in black. It was a shade of black that painted holes in the universe. It's not that I expected him to wear red or printed hearts all over--a simple acknowledgement of our relationship would have sufficed (only single people wore black that day). My logical side tried to convince myself that I was being silly in putting way too much meaning to the color of a shirt, for God's sake. Well, it turned out that the dark color indeed foretold a one-way ticket to Splitsville a few days later.

So still, no rose. I was beginning to think that flowers were allergic to me.

FEELING thorny?

Stupid, vapid, insipid Cupid

I think it's perfectly understandable then, that I remained hateful of this "day of love" for many years. I even concluded that it was some practical joke of the universe, for designating one day in the year that managed to make me feel like an outsider looking in and seeing all the shiny, happy people celebrating love and growing fat with chocolate-covered macadamia nuts. I concluded that Cupid was a mean little spawn of the Antichrist disguised in feathery garb and diapers. I even thought of starting up a little company called Hellmark Greetings which, instead of printing poems of love, would peddle haiku of hate. Of course, I never talked about what I really felt, not even with my closest friends, simply because I thought admitting it would paint me as a bitter person (which, come to think of it now, I was).

Then one day, post-college life and into my first lazy summer as an official bum, I finally told somebody of my personal quest for the Holy Grail. About my simple, pathetic wish for just one damn rose—even a plastic one. I don't know why I decided that he was the right person to reveal my secret shame to. He wasn't a summer romance. We were, in all truth, simply good friends whose closeness deepened throughout the sweltering season over San Miguel, packs of Marlboros and discussions on whether Frodo and Sam were gay. For whatever reason—whether it was because he was my closest friend at the time, or because we were confiding in each other about nightmares, or because I was a little too tipsy from the beer that night—I opened up about my pathos. A few more swigs later, we moved on to other pressing issues like the World Cup and the excellent Depeche Mode tribute album.

One night at the tail end of that summer, he and I decided to party the night away in a bar at Malate. I eventually got lost within a dense crowd of night owls, and craned my neck to look for my friend. I spotted him by the glass entrance doors, and when I made my way to meet him, he coolly, handed me ... a perfect red rose. My enchantment was short-lived, however, because an hour later, some bastard stole it from our table. Now there's a story of irony for you!

Crazy little thing

I chalked up that bizarre event as a point for the practical-joking universe once again, and tried hard not to feel so bad about the loss. Sleep had always been the best cure for strange happenstance. When sunlight pried my eyes open the very next day, I was stunned at seeing something unfamiliar on my bedside table. It was an insanely huge bouquet of roses. The card attached to it was unsigned. It simply read, "I found your wandering rose. It brought some friends along with it."

That summer day officially became my first, real Valentine's Day. It wasn't authored with romantic verses; nor was it drawn with hearts all over. Heck, it wasn't even February 14! It was simply a day that signaled the turn of a page, a change of heart. That was the day I got to like again that kooky, albeit myopic little cherub whose weapon of choice was a bow and arrow. Perhaps because I had learned a very important lesson about that mysterious, many-splendored thing called love: that in obsessing about such details as petals and twigs and choco-covered nuts, I overlooked one of the greatest love affairs in the world ever. And that is the crazy little thing shared between the closest of friends.

(E-mail me, befriend me, even blast me for turning all mushy this weekend, at inca_orange@yahoo.com)

Kidding around with Borgy Manotoc in Boracay

TINA TASTES

by Tina Pamintuan

NOT everyone realizes that Borgy Manotoc is only 20. Just like Britney's song, the guy is "not a boy, not yet a man."

People have reason to think he's older. Anyone who has conversed with him would admit that his mind is packed—more than your average 20- or even 30-year-old. Being a Marcos probably has something to do with that.

School in the morning, castings all day and scouting for new music in the evenings (part of his job at a record label)—this is Borgy's typical day in New York. As a model in an extremely competitive city, he had to alter his diet and follow a strict eating regimen, mostly tofu and steamed vegetables, to lose 20 pounds.

Borgy and I went to Banza, a quaint little Portuguese restaurant in Boracay, the best place to eat on the island established by a Portuguese couple a few years ago. Borgy—almost a local because he occupies most of his time on the island whenever home—says he makes it a point to always dine at Banza. It was my first time there; I couldn't wait to feast.

Hungry eyes are automatic.The road near Boracay's local market greets diners with a table of live and fresh seafood. Banza's stark simplicity is endearing. Antonio, chef and owner, comes out to welcome clients and then happily returns to the kitchen very much engrossed in making sure the food comes out immaculate.

We started with an impressive opener, Green Mussels ala Portuguese —clean salty fish stock with a delicate touch of white wine to extend the flavor of the broth; fresh local mussels sauteed in garlic, onions and parsley with tomatoes to balance the dish. I could have nibbled on the bread all evening, dipping small pieces of the firm-crusted but soft white loaf into the sauce.

Traditional Gambas ala Plancha was up to par. The King prawns were swimming in garlic-flavored olive oil, dried red chilis and toasted garlic.

Surprisingly, as a person who does not fancy *bacalao* (salted dried fish and potatoes stewed in rich olive oil and tomato sauce), I was most happy with this dish. It was cooked like a rustic crispy potato omelette—subtly flavored, moist and crunchy.

Borgy likes his food simple but intense. I think he enjoyed the dry spiced marinated kebab the most. He devoured the bigger-than-life skewered seafood down to the metal skewer: tender squid and plump prawns, grilled delicate white fish flamegrilled at maximum heat levels, with fantastically sweet vegetables (bell pepper, onion and tomato quarters).

The last dish was Portugese steak—sirloin cut topped with fried egg, parma ham and potatoes. Not quite a healthy option! There can be no arguing that after this, I had definitely won the trophy for eating most. But if you ask Borgy he'll say he ate more. He likes to win.

The place was buzzing as it is pretty difficult to get a reservation. There were sounds of voices, tinkling of plates, Portuguese music. Only one thing was calm: Antonio's dog. The extremely fat pug, you could not help but feel affection for, lounged around like the place was his house. Borgy told me the adorable creature reminded him of Lulu, his old dog back in Portugal, where he lived with his family from the time he was five until he was 10 years old.

Super!: Why Lulu?

B: She looked like a Lulu (laughs).

When I was little we used to have 15 dogs and a tiger.

A tiger? A tiger... which reminds me, back in Portugal, my little brother was the cutest little tiger in a Halloween costume. Now he likes to think he's cute but you should have seen him when he was a kid. Oh my god, if he was my little brother now, all my girlfriends would dump me for him.

Now they dump him for you.

No, no, I hate that, that you said that, coz you're horrible! It's true but... that's TJ's job. He won best costume and I came in second. I was so pissed off.

Quite competitive, aren't we? That seems to come naturally for you. What for you is easy and what is difficult?

Being competitive is easy. When I'm being challenged by someone or something, I don't need to be motivated, it's instinctive. Difficult for me is when your supposed to be creatively inspired, like in art class where you are pressured. It's like, "Paint now!" If you're not inspired you can't force that.

When in your life do you give your all, and when do you not?

I wish I had more control. It would be nice so I could prioritize things—school, family obligations—better. Sometimes I get too lax. I always justify the way I act so it's okay for me. I mean, I believe in prioritizing, but priorities always change so it's hard to stay true to a lot of things.

If you had to teach a subject what would it be?

Theology or philosophy because I love progressions of questions. It's not just giving your opinion but exploring your own opinion. Granted, the bare minimum is to put down your opinion in a precise way, in a manner that you've thought about, makes sense and relates to the topic—that gets a grade of C. A B is when you explore your opinion and all that, plus you look at different perspectives and other people's points of view. An A is ...

An A is when you can change the mind of your teacher...

An A is when someone has created an original thought. Because it's so easy to reiterate other people's thoughts. We could both sit here and go on about that.

Can I ask you about your relationship with your mom?

Yeah, of course.

Is she more lax with you than people might expect?

Our relationship is based on trust. She lets me know when I'm wrong. We're on a leash, but our leash is a little bit looser than most. She lets us make our own mistakes so we learn on our own, which is a good thing. It makes a lot of sense. I love the way that she's raised us.

How about being in love. What's more important—intensity or permanence?

Intensity is much more important.

If you were guaranteed an honest answer what question would you ask?

(To God) What the hell am I doing on this earth?

What to you is the worst psychological torture you can imagine suffering?

Answering the next nine questions..

I got the hint.

Banza seems a bit pricey for the island. But other restaurants leave both your pockets and stomachs empty. Banza is worthy of your money because you leave with content and happy tummies. The place is cozy and welcoming, with a home kitchen atmosphere. The only thing we found a bit odd was the continuous changing of the plates and utensils. I started to think it was a Portuguese tradition but Borgy assured me it wasn't. He was more concerned about the poor dishwasher in the back. He also says Banza is very authentic. Take his word for it.

What: Banza

Where: Boracay Island, Station 3

When: lunch: 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; dinner: 6 p.m. onwards

How much: P600/head w/ drinks

Contact: Antonio @ 036 2885167

For questions, comments and suggestions, e-mail tina_tastes@yahoo.com

Hearthurn

From page 11

price though, something many aspirants to show biz fail to realize. All celebrities, whether they like it or not, are emulated by their fans. Thus, even at a very young age, Heart's actions already have a tremendous impact on the world. If she doesn't watch it, her contribution to society will be, well, less than satisfactory.

I believe that Heart Evangelista is more than the ditzy black hole that everything she does suggests she is. Surely there is a strong young woman underneath that facade who is waiting to come out, take risks, and go out on a limb for a change. Unless she finds that side of her and develops it, her fame will spawn a generation of copycat fans who, not knowing any better, will inevitably mimic her. Imagine an army of Heart Evangelista Mini-Me's who, while only 16 now will eventually become adults and, banded together, will have the capacity to take over the world.

Interviewer: Will you be doing more mature roles now that you are 18?

Heart: No, 'coz for me I like my dresses, my pictorials and everything now that I'm turning 18, it's not like *parang o*, she's 18 *na* and she has to like, something *medyo mag*-daring *na siya*, you know she's an adult. No *talaga*! 'Coz the way they see me, I'm still, I mean the way I move, I'm 18 but you know I'm not an adult 18. So *siguro* it's not yet time for me.

I rest my case.

(Pop me an e-mail, folks, at swak1@info.com.ph. By the way, both interviews quoted above were taken verbatim from actual Heart interviews posted on the Internet, proving once again that truth is often stranger than fiction.)

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SUN CELLULAR
PRESENTS

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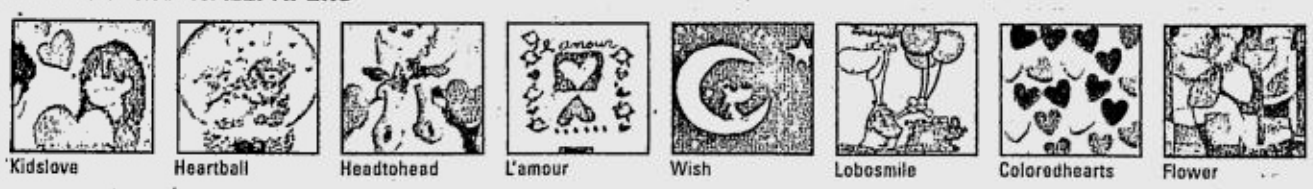

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RINGTONES

TITLE	ARTIST	KEYWORD
She (poly)	Elvis Costello	elviscshe
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214 (mono)	Rivermaya	214

SUN CELLULAR
Everything Important is Under the Sun

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0301, Series of 2004

Loving yourself on this day of hearts

By Joel V. Nigos

Just like our objects of love, loving ourselves come in many forms and sizes. The most helpful would be through self-enhancement programs

FOR most people, there's one sure thing that comes to mind when Valentine's Day approaches. That is, the object of our affection or that someone we hold dear to our hearts.

They are the beneficiaries of our love, the recipients of things we first call our own. This Valentine's Day, however, let's try to be different. Let's pamper ourselves a bit. Let's express our love to ourselves, for a change. Besides, as one respected guru once asked, "How can we love someone if we haven't loved ourselves? How can we share something, (that is, love) if we do not have it?"

Just like the way we love others, loving ourselves come in many forms and sizes. The most helpful would be through self-enhancement programs that can be provided by enrollment to gyms or fitness clubs, or by indulging our body to a relaxing massage in a spa, by getting skin treatments, or maybe by consulting a cosmetic dentist who can very well help us flash that smile better.

Learning a thing or two is an added option. We may try learning how to drive a car. Or enhance our swimming skills so that come next summer beach outing we have something to flaunt. Just remember, all the things we will do for ourselves today will become a part of us, which in the future may also be the things we can share to others.

Robert Baranda, training manager of Slimmers World International, shares the satisfaction that comes with enrolling oneself to a gym.

Sharing his thoughts from his experiences at Slimmers World, he says he was able to see how lives changed with the programs the fitness club offered to its clients.

"Enrolling in a gym is, indeed, a form of self-enhancement. More than the science of doing the exercises, programs in fitness clubs, most especially ours, focus on the behavior of the person and how that behavior change can help the person achieve his goals," he says.

Self-enhancement, he adds, is an expression of one's love to one's self—a true gift to the self in this month of love.

Besides enrollment in fitness clubs, Baranda adds that indulging your body in massages in a spa or getting skin treatments are also ways of pampering or loving yourself. These treatments boost one's self-confidence, which in turn has a positive effect on one's personality.

Slimmers World offers various services in its Skin and Facial Clinic like programs in skin dynamics and skin lightening, treatments such as facial, ultra peel, nutracell or body scrub, and dermatological consultations. Skincare products are also available.

It is also the only fitness club which offers real lifetime membership. No more monthly dues after a client has settled fully the lifetime membership fee. Personal training is also being offered by SWI, which guarantees the client achievement of his goals at his own convenience.

Cosmetic dentistry

It may be a bit uncommon but consulting our favorite cosmetic dentist is also a form of self-enhancement and another way of loving one's self.

And though we admit it or not, dental health, among other aspects of our body, is one of our most neglected. There were not only a few occasions when only the unbearable pain in our dentures forced us see a dentist, throwing the worries of high dental bills to the wind.

Dr. Oliver Cailles, a cosmetic dentist and specialist in temporomandibular joint (TMJ) orthodontics, says cosmetic dentistry can improve one's look.

He has on his list of clientele flight attendants, commercial models, business executives, foreign tourists, public relations and human resources practitioners, among others.

He says even the common folk go to his clinic because it offers a wide variety of opinions for individual needs — from the most affordable to the best treatment.

At his clinic, he adds, the norm is how the patient would look after the treatment. "We always make sure that the treatments our clients would get would help improve one's totality as a person. Self-enhancement would be the politically correct term. It would be one good gift that can be given to one's self. It just shows how you love yourself," says Cailles.

Some of the services which you can avail yourself at his clinic are crown lengthening, enameloplasty, veneers, bonding or functional orthodontics.

Cailles' clinic also offers a wide variety of low-cost teeth bleaching services and the latest technology in dental medicine, the BriteSmile teeth whitening system.

"Whiter teeth can be had in just about an

LOVING/ K2

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Modern love: 'Flying kisses from my PC to yours'

By Marlet D. Salazar

WHERE has the romance gone in this digital age? Nowhere, it just evolved.

Courtship, rekindling of old loves, keeping a relationship, and even marriage proposals have somewhat gone digital too. Long-distance relationships are thriving — and surviving — with the aid of technology which bridges the physical distance among couples.

In the University of Missouri-Rolla Counseling Center website (http://campus.umr.edu/counsel/), it states that the first key to success with this kind of relationship (or with any relationship for that matter) is effective communication. The site said, "It is important for both parties to be able to feel that if they need to talk or write to the other person, communication will be welcomed and met with active communication from the other."

The innovation of various media allows people worlds apart to communicate in real time. All right, telephone has been there for years but it doesn't come cheap. If the Internet did a lot of good in business, so it does in people's personal life. Private messaging, messenger, chat, or whatever you call it substitute the more expensive telephone call to be able to know each other. And more recently, short messaging service (SMS), or more popularly known as text, connected people wherever they are (as long as there's a signal).

The Counseling Center site said the quality of the relationship is more likely to increase if both people develop the ability to share (their) feelings openly with each other.

But with the distance that separates couples where else can they find an ally than through technology?

Of course, everyone will agree that nothing can replace the physical presence in getting to know your partner. But technology also has its upsides.

Malyn Castillo-Romero met her husband, Rick, online through her friend who happens to be his cousin. It was one of those regular chats she had with her *barkada*.

"We didn't hit it off right away," Malyn said.

They would casually chat whenever they chanced upon each other online. Rick worked as a nurse at Montgomery General Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, while Malyn was an interior designer here. Both were Filipinos. After a while, Rick expressed his interest on her by means of daily phone calls and regular e-mails, with online chatting on the side.

They were able to foster a relationship even without being together physically. Pictures sent, and happy thoughts after, they were married—in the physical world, that is.

It helped that Rick worked the night shift so the couple's working and sleeping hours were practically the same. They now have an 18-month-old son named Mikey.

Chiqui, on the other hand, worked in an information technology company when she met her boyfriend Frederic at a dinner party in Makati. Frederic was an IT specialist in France.

Frederic and Chiqui rely entirely on e-mails and texts to regularly communicate with each other. Frederic introduced her to his whole clan during her visit late last year. They have been "together" for almost two years now.

Serious long-distance relationships, no matter how people romanticize it, has its share of flaws, however.

Malyn states "longing" as one of the problems that hounded them.

Longing can become agonizingly unbearable that sometimes you just want to be shipped like a regular cargo just to see your loved one in the flesh. The "what-could've-beens" constantly play in your mind like a movie that needed to be shown. What would it be like dating him/her on a sunny day? How does it feel like walking along the beach beside him/her during sunset?

"We were just very eager to meet and hug and date like 'normal' couples do," Malyn said.

They resolved it, however, by diverting their attention to their future plans. "It's like getting the present dilemma out of our minds, and focusing instead on the promising future together," she said.

According to the Counseling Center website, there are several ways to cope with the longing. But the line that strikes a lot is: Put meaningful things in your life other than your significant other. The site also states that it is okay to let out of your emotions: cry, scream, sing, exercise, go for a run, play a sport, or take a walk. In a nutshell, it means that these things can help you take your mind off the longing.

For Chiqui and Frederic, their problems were not limited to the distance. There were also the differences in cultural origins and beliefs. They prefer to discuss things over the phone. "If I think it will be a lengthy one, I try to e-mail the whole case with him for a response in return," Chiqui said.

Malyn and Chiqui had contrasting answers to the question whether they think they would have gotten to know their partners better if they were physically together.

Chiqui replied, "Yes. It's the time I see flaws as well as good points. More importantly, I see the real person offline."

Malyn, on the other hand, disagrees. "When we are chatting and typing our thoughts away, it makes us more comfortable to open up better than when we are actually face to face."

She saw that the situation of being apart actually did them more good in terms of knowing each other better.

Having a long-distance relationship also comes as a challenge. But honesty and trust are just two of the keys to make it work.

It is never easy saying you are in love with someone whom you haven't had the chance to touch or hug. We best express our feelings through touch.

But there are those who are better in words.

The Counseling Center sums it up: Do things that draw the two of you closer, rather than emphasize the distance between you.

Loving yourself on this day of hearts

From page K1

hour with BriteSmile," he says. "Years of staining from drinking coffee, tea, red wine or cola are magically erased with this technology, which clinical studies prove whitening treatment results in an improvement of eight shades whiter," adds Cailles.

Slimmers World International has 11 centers in Metro Manila, one in Subic and one in Cebu. For inquiries, call 887-3533.

The Cailles Dental Clinic is located at the 2nd Level of the Goldcrest Building, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City. For appointments and inquiries, call 892-1077.

Attending to one's needs first is not at all selfish, says Baranda. Loving one's self is not in any way against the rule of the universe, echoes Cailles.

As the song goes, "Because the greatest love of all is easy to achieve. Learning to love yourself is the greatest love of all..."

Love yourself this Valentines Day. Who knows, after paying attention to ourselves, come next Valentine's Day, someone out there would finally take notice.

Indulge in your sweetest desires with Dove Chocolates

WANT to make this Valentine season truly unforgettable? Then make your Valentine swoon. There's no sweeter way than by indulging him or her with all the wonderful Valentine trimmings that makes the season the merry month of love.

Make the red-letter days of February even more romantic with Dove Chocolates, the everyday indulgence and gifting chocolate that leaves a lingering chocolate sensation. Rich with milk, Dove Chocolate has a rich, silky smooth texture that gives chocolate lovers a total sensory experience — the perfect way to show someone your passion!

This month, Dove Chocolate is making Valentine's even more special by teaming up with the city's hotspots for Valentine indulgence by giving away luxurious Dove Chocolates at flower shops such as Flowers by Sylvia, Mabolo, Flower Farm and Rustan's Flower Shop as well as Cravings Restaurants and participating establishments in Greenbelt 2 and Greenbelt 3, such as Oyster Bar, Uva, Nuvo, Soleil, Segafredo, Grappas, and Restaurant 12—adding the perfect touch to a romantic date.

For all those who will be treating themselves to a makeover or massage this Valentine's, Dove Chocolate is also making self-indulgence all the more enjoyable by giving out free Dove Chocolates at spas such as The Spa, Urban Spa, RCBC Spa and Orient Spa, and at salons such as Basement, Propaganda, Emphasis, and Franck Provost.

Dove Chocolates will also be giving chocoholics a taste of chocolate heaven at the New World Hotel, Mandarin Hotel, Westin Philippine Plaza, Vivere, Discovery Suites and at malls, supermarkets, and department stores such as Robinson's, Rustans, and SM.

But more than giving you your chocolate fix this season of hearts, Dove Chocolate has also made the search for the perfect gift for that special someone a whole lot easier. The 'Kiss-Kiss Bear' pack has everything you need to tug at heartstrings: Dove Chocolate bar, stuffed toys and a heart-warming message in a Hallmark card. You can also choose the 'Between You and Me' box, which contains 3 pieces of 47-gram Dove Chocolate bars inside a box-shaped Hallmark card. Every purchase of a Hallmark Valentine greeting card at any National Bookstore outlet entitles the buyer free Dove Chocolate as well.

And what is Valentine's without the sparkle of gems? Dove Chocolate will also be giving you a chance to win one of three solitaire diamond necklaces or one of 12 Swarovski necklaces for every P50 purchase of Dove Chocolates. Details of how to join in the raffle will be posted in participating malls, supermarkets and department stores.

So if you're bent on making a lasting impression this Valentine's, keep in mind that the best way to win the heart of your Valentine is by indulging him or her with everything the heart desires!

Rosentiels: the one-stop flower shop

THERE'S a new flower shop in town. So, what's new? It's not just about flowers, the personalized service and innovative accessories are one of the many things that stand out in this newcomer.

Having over 15 years of experience in floral design, under some of the most prominent names in the business, such as Rustan's and Flower Express, Ting V. Blando, an interior designer, thought of creating a novel of a shop where creativity meets exuberance and moderation meets passion.

Rosentiels Flower Shop is a one-stop shop. "If you need it, most probably we have it, if we don't, then we'll find it for you.", says Blando, "We specialize in events that translate into your personality and not just the occasion."

From weddings to special parties all the way to corporate events, no occasion is too complicated. Rosentiels flower shop aims to lift your burden by bringing everything together for you.

This Valentine's, Rosentiels offers free deliveries for every order above P 1,000.

Call Rosentiels Flower Shop at 812-8586 or visit the shop at the ground floor of Annex B, Filomena Building, Adelantado Street, Legaspi Village, CBD, Makati.

Hit the right G Spot on V-Day

FINE restaurants, chill-out lounges, music bars, movie houses will be jampacked on Valentine's Day. Streets will surely be clogged while your purse is drained by the skyrocketing prices of flowers and chocolates.

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A dinner date need not be pricey. If you are practical and smart, express your love the Frenzy way. Take her to an intimate dinner at home. This way, you veer away from the hustle and bustle of the congested metro and give her a different amount of pleasure. Stir a fine dish to tickle her taste buds. Set up a candle light dinner table and set the mood by letting soft lounge music dominate the airwaves. If the intimate ambiance brings you to a stimulating mood, make sure you express it the responsible way, the Frenzy way.

It's all about using your head. Express your love the Frenzy way.

'ABBA—The Music' Valentine retro party

Relive the nostalgia of the swinging '70s as 'ABBA—The Music' comes to Manila for its special Valentine's Day Retro Party at the PSC-Ultra on Feb. 14, 8:30 p.m. Have the time of your life as the group—composed of Katja Nord, Camilla Dahlin, Martin Hakansson and Henrik Olsson—kicks off its much-awaited world tour. The 'ABBA—The Music' entourage features the Swedish national orchestra and original band members performing over 20 of ABBA's greatest hits. ABBA gained popularity during the '70s for hits such as 'Dancing Queen'; 'The Winner Takes It All'; 'Thank You For The Music'; 'Knowing Me, Knowing You'; 'Fernando'; 'Take A Chance On Me'; 'Chiquitita'; 'The Name of the Game', and many others. Bjorn Ulvaeus, ABBA's main songwriter, was fond of saying that there is more to music than 'Git down, baaaay-bee!' when critics berated ABBA's melodic sound. Even ABBA's flamboyant outfits were reviled by the press.

But despite that, the baggy pants, oversized tops, capri leggings and the like that women favored in the late '80s are now staples in many wardrobes. The group's tastes seems to be tuned into the future, and it refused to let critics pressure it into looking back. Produced by ALV Events International, 'ABBA—The Music: A Valentine Retro Party' is presented by Globe Platinum and Petron XCS Plus in cooperation with Bench, Nestlé, AMA Computer University, Shopwise, Mido Swiss Watches, Discovery Suites and Waterfront Hotel Cebu. Sponsors are Montre, Ink for Less, AMA Bank and Philippine Airlines. Official concert TV stations are GMA-7 and TAPE Inc. Official radio stations are Jam 88.3, RJ100, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT, 103.5 K-Lite, Mellow Touch 94.7 and 105.1 Crossover. Media partners include The Philippine Star and Philippine Daily Inquirer. For ticket reservations, call 633-9825 to 27 or TicketNet outlets at 911-5555.

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Modern love: 'Flying kisses from my PC to yours'

By Marlet D. Salazar

WHERE has the romance gone in this digital age? Nowhere, it just evolved.

Courtship, rekindling of old loves, keeping a relationship, and even marriage proposals have somewhat gone digital too. Long-distance relationships are thriving — and surviving — with the aid of technology which bridges the physical distance among couples.

In the University of Missouri-Rolla Counseling Center website (http://campus.umr.edu/counsel/), it states that the first key to success with this kind of relationship (or with any relationship for that matter) is effective communication. The site said, "It is important for both parties to be able to feel that if they need to talk or write to the other person, communication will be welcomed and met with active communication from the other."

The innovation of various media allows people worlds apart to communicate in real time. All right, telephone has been there for years but it doesn't come cheap. If the Internet did a lot of good in business, so it does in people's personal life. Private messaging, messenger, chat, or whatever you call it substitute the more expensive telephone call to be able to know each other. And more recently, short messaging service (SMS), or more popularly known as text, connected people wherever they are (as long as there's a signal).

The Counseling Center site said the quality of the relationship is more likely to increase if both people develop the ability to share (their) feelings openly with each other.

But with the distance that separates couples where else can they find an ally than through technology?

Of course, everyone will agree that nothing can replace the physical presence in getting to know your partner. But technology also has its upsides.

Malyn Castillo-Romero met her husband, Rick, online through her friend who happens to be his cousin. It was one of those regular chats she had with her *barkada*.

"We didn't hit it off right away," Malyn said.

They would casually chat whenever they chanced upon each other online. Rick worked as a nurse at Montgomery General Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, while Malyn was an interior designer here. Both were Filipinos. After a while, Rick expressed his interest on her by means of daily phone calls and regular e-mails, with online chatting on the side.

They were able to foster a relationship even without being together physically. Pictures sent, and happy thoughts after, they were married—in the physical world, that is.

It helped that Rick worked the night shift so the couple's working and sleeping hours were practically the same. They now have an 18-month-old son named Mikey.

Chiqui, on the other hand, worked in an information technology company when she met her boyfriend Frederic at a dinner party in Makati. Frederic was an IT specialist in France.

Frederic and Chiqui rely entirely on e-mails and texts to regularly communicate with each other. Frederic introduced her to his whole clan during her visit late last year. They have been "together" for almost two years now.

Serious long-distance relationships, no matter how people romanticize it, has its share of flaws, however.

Malyn states "longing" as one of the problems that hounded them.

Longing can become agonizingly unbearable that sometimes you just want to be shipped like a regular cargo just to see your loved one in the flesh. The "what-could've-beens" constantly play in your mind like a movie that needed to be shown. What would it be like dating him/her on a sunny day? How does it feel like walking along the beach beside him/her during sunset?

"We were just very eager to meet and hug and date like 'normal' couples do," Malyn said.

They resolved it, however, by diverting their attention to their future plans. "It's like getting the present dilemma out of our minds, and focusing instead on the promising future together," she said.

According to the Counseling Center website, there are several ways to cope with the longing. But the line that strikes a lot is: Put meaningful things in your life other than your significant other. The site also states that it is okay to let out of your emotions: cry, scream, sing, exercise, go for a run, play a sport, or take a walk. In a nutshell, it means that these things can help you take your mind off the longing.

For Chiqui and Frederic, their problems were not limited to the distance. There were also the differences in cultural origins and beliefs. They prefer to discuss things over the phone. "If I think it will be a lengthy one, I try to e-mail the whole case with him for a response in return," Chiqui said.

Malyn and Chiqui had contrasting answers to the question whether they think they would have gotten to know their partners better if they were physically together.

Chiqui replied, "Yes. It's the time I see flaws as well as good points. More importantly, I see the real person offline."

Malyn, on the other hand, disagrees. "When we are chatting and typing our thoughts away, it makes us more comfortable to open up better than when we are actually face to face."

She saw that the situation of being apart actually did them more good in terms of knowing each other better.

Having a long-distance relationship also comes as a challenge. But honesty and trust are just two of the keys to make it work.

It is never easy saying you are in love with someone whom you haven't had the chance to touch or hug. We best express our feelings through touch.

But there are those who are better in words.

The Counseling Center sums it up: Do things that draw the two of you closer, rather than emphasize the distance between you.

Loving yourself on this day of hearts

From page K1

hour with BriteSmile," he says. "Years of staining from drinking coffee, tea, red wine or cola are magically erased with this technology, which clinical studies prove whitening treatment results in an improvement of eight shades whiter," adds Cailles.

Slimmers World International has 11 centers in Metro Manila, one in Subic and one in Cebu. For inquiries, call 887-3533.

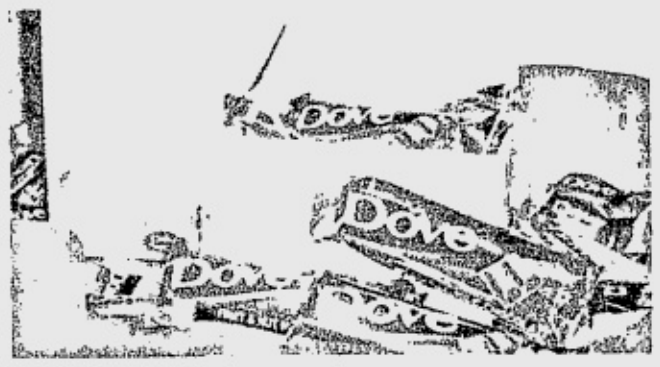
The Cailles Dental Clinic is located at the 2nd Level of the Goldcrest Building, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City. For appointments and inquiries, call 892-1077.

Attending to one's needs first is not at all selfish, says Baranda. Loving one's self is not in any way against the rule of the universe, echoes Cailles.

As the song goes, "Because the greatest love of all is easy to achieve. Learning to love yourself is the greatest love of all..."

Love yourself this Valentines Day. Who knows, after paying attention to ourselves, come next Valentine's Day, someone out there would finally take notice.

Indulge in your sweetest desires with Dove Chocolates



WANT to make this Valentine season truly unforgettable? Then make your Valentine swoon. There's no sweeter way than by indulging him or her with all the wonderful Valentine trimmings that makes the season the merry month of love.

Make the red-letter days of February even more romantic with Dove Chocolates, the everyday indulgence and gifting chocolate that leaves a lingering chocolate sensation. Rich with milk, Dove Chocolate has a rich, silky smooth texture that gives chocolate lovers a total sensory experience — the perfect way to show someone your passion!

This month, Dove Chocolate is making Valentine's even more special by teaming up with the city's hotspots for Valentine indulgence by giving away luxurious Dove Chocolates at flower shops such as Flowers by Sylvia, Mabolo, Flower Farm and Rustan's Flower Shop as well as Cravings Restaurants and participating establishments in Greenbelt 2 and Greenbelt 3, such as Oyster Bar, Uva, Nuvo, Soleil, Segafredo, Grappas, and Restaurant 12—adding the perfect touch to a romantic date.

For all those who will be treating themselves to a makeover or massage this Valentine's, Dove Chocolate is also making self-indulgence all the more enjoyable by giving out free Dove Chocolates at spas such as The Spa, Urban Spa, RCBC Spa and Orient Spa, and at salons such as Basement, Propaganda, Emphasis, and Franck Provost.

Dove Chocolates will also be giving chocoholics a taste of chocolate heaven at the New World Hotel, Mandarin Hotel, Westin Philippine Plaza, Vivere, Discovery Suites and at malls, supermarkets, and department stores such as Robinson's, Rustans, and SM.

But more than giving you your chocolate fix this season of hearts, Dove Chocolate has also made the search for the perfect gift for that special someone a whole lot easier. The 'Kiss-Kiss Bear' pack has everything you need to tug at heartstrings: Dove Chocolate bar, stuffed toys and a heart-warming message in a Hallmark card. You can also choose the 'Between You and Me' box, which contains 3 pieces of 47-gram Dove Chocolate bars inside a box-shaped Hallmark card. Every purchase of a Hallmark Valentine greeting card at any National Bookstore outlet entitles the buyer free Dove Chocolate as well.

And what is Valentine's without the sparkle of gems? Dove Chocolate will also be giving you a chance to win one of three solitaire diamond necklaces or one of 12 Swarovski necklaces for every P50 purchase of Dove Chocolates. Details of how to join in the raffle will be posted in participating malls, supermarkets and department stores.

So if you're bent on making a lasting impression this Valentine's, keep in mind that the best way to win the heart of your Valentine is by indulging him or her with everything the heart desires!

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A destination to get intimate

MATCH the intensity of romance in a venue where you can celebrate the season of love at Seven Suites Hotel Observatory. Amidst the cool breeze and under the stars, have a truly memorable dinner at the deck. You can choose among the three main courses: English roast chicken, salmon and ribs while being serenaded by a string ensemble especially prepared for the night.

Guests can also experience the hotel's regular indulgences such as the Jacuzzi, spa and the luxurious suites all at a reasonable price.

One can literally give their significant other the moon and the stars at Seven Suites Hotel Observatory. Take a tour of the universe with the hotel's in-house astronomer or get cozy just gazing at the moonlight. It is the only hotel-cum-observatory that is indeed nearer to the heavens.

Seven Suites Hotel Observatory, nestled among the gently sloping hills of Antipolo, is also the perfect place to hold pre-nuptial celebrations and other events especially related to "love."

For more information, call 677-5401 to 02 and 240-5093 or e-mail sevensuites@cravingsgroup.com. Seven Suites Hotel Observatory is located at Hollywood Hills Subdivision, Sumulong Highway, Antipolo City (across Valley Golf Country Club). It is just 30 minutes away from Cubao or Ortigas.

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A passion for music at The Podium

BLIND tenor and pianist Carlos Ibay and talented pianist and composer Willy Cruz topbill The Podium's Valentine's Day presentations on Saturday, Feb. 14 at the Podium.

Mallgoers are treated to a rare performance as Willy Cruz shares his timeless romantic compositions on the day of hearts at The Lounge area in The Podium at 6 p.m. Sit back and relax as he plays well-loved hits like "Never Ever Say Goodbye", "Sana'y Wala ng Wakas", "Bituing Walang Ningning", "Init sa Malamig", "Kamusta Ka", and many others.

He will also be playing interpretations of his top love hits like "Forevermore", "Sana'y Maghintay ang Walang Hanggan," "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw", "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang", "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin", and "There Was You".

Cruz will also pay tribute to other composers in his interpretations of their works featured in his album "Through the Rain". These include homegrown songwriters like Rey Valera ("Walang Kapalit") and Ogie Alcasid ("Pangako" and "Kailangan Kita"); as well as international artists like Elton John ("Sorry Seems to be the Hardest Word"), Josh Groban ("You're Still You"), and Elvis Presley ("Can't Help Falling in Love").

Willy Cruz started his music career as pianist-arranger for the Ambivalent Crowd, while taking his degree in Business Administration at the Ateneo University. He later joined Vicor Music Corp as vice president for the domestic labels division, and eventually founded his own music company, Jem Recording.

He has been composer and arranger to some of the biggest stars in the local entertainment business like Pilita Corrales, Nora Aunor, Basil Valdez; and has helped guide the careers of Sharon Cuneta, Hajji Alejandro, Nonoy Zuñiga, Zsa-Zsa Padilla, and others. As a performing artist, he is now under contract with Viva Records and his music catalogue is licensed to Harmony Music.

Capping the evening at 8:30 p.m. is "Keys to the Heart, An Evening with Carlos Ibay".

Carlos, a 24-year-old New York-based virtuoso, has captivated his audiences with his extraordinary piano performances as well as his singing ability. At age 9, he studied the fine techniques of piano with Thomas Schumacher of the Levine School of Music. At 12, Carlos won first place in the Peabody Conservatory Spring Festival and second place in the Steinway Piano Scholarship Competition at the Levine School of Music.

More recently, he has performed in the Rachmaninoff Center of Musical Culture in Novgorod, Russia, and played with the Bessler Quartet and Brazilian pianist Virginia Hogan in Rio de Janeiro. He is currently a student at the Mannes College of Music in New York City.

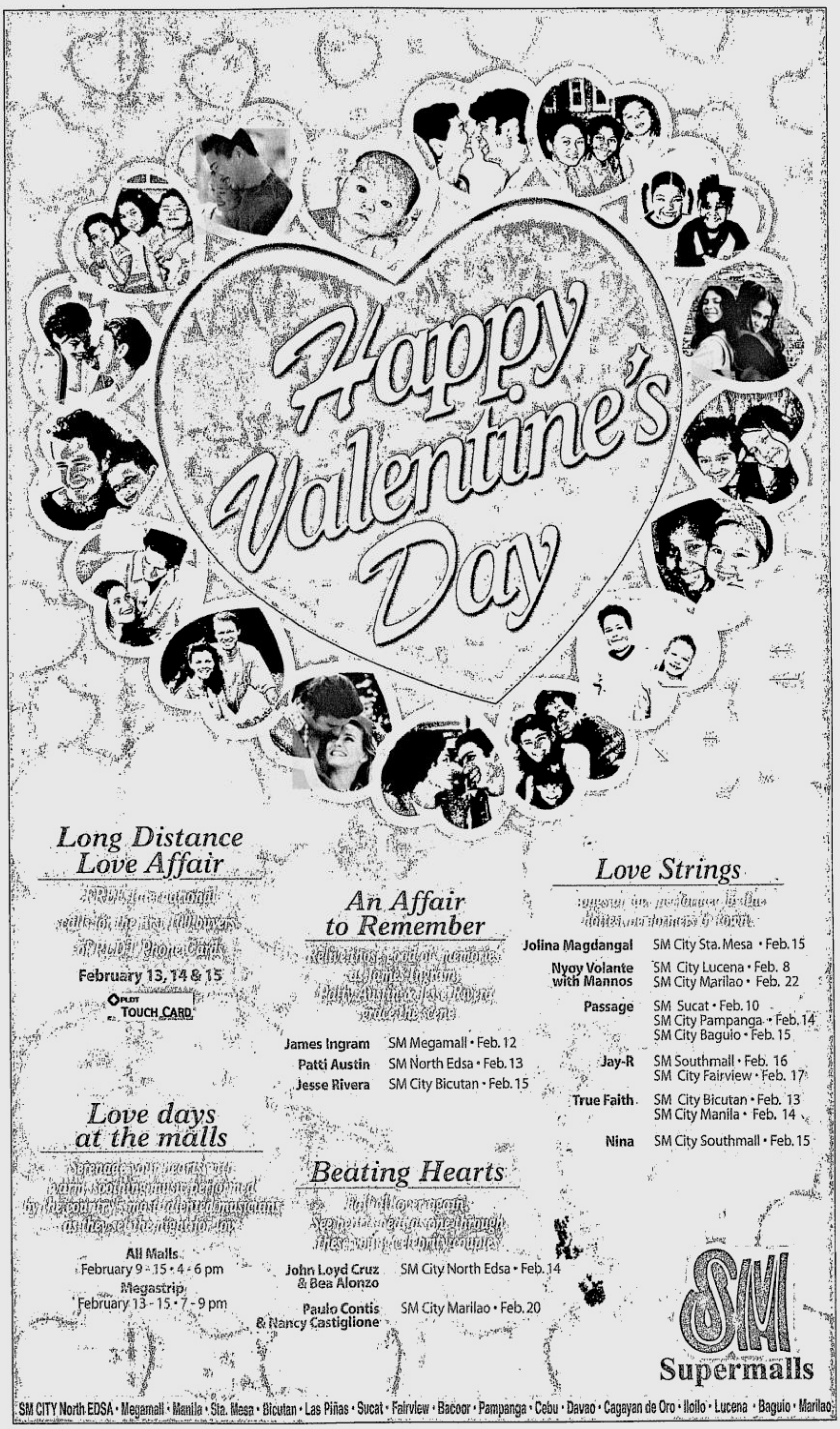
Carlos is not only versatile in the piano, but also possesses the voice of a *belcanto* tenor. His repertoire includes sacred songs, opera arias, Broadway musicals, classical jazz, Italian classics, Filipino songs, and some popular hits.

On Sunday, Feb. 15, Perfectly Acoustic goes to The Podium with Kyla, Kitchie Nadal, Sugarfree, and Stone Free.

Sugarfree's charming casualness and relaxed music with the acoustic version of their number one hit, "Telepono", balances the intensity of Kyla's hit song "Because of You", Kitchie Nadal's "Deliverance", and Stone Free's anthem "Listen".

On the same day, the UP Medchoir will be singing heartwarming songs at 7 p.m.

Make it a musical Valentine date at The Podium.



Long Distance Love Affair
February 13, 14 & 15
PLDT TOUCH CARD

An Affair to Remember

James Ingram	SM Megamall • Feb. 12
Patti Austin	SM North Edsa • Feb. 13
Jesse Rivera	SM City Bicutan • Feb. 15

Love Strings

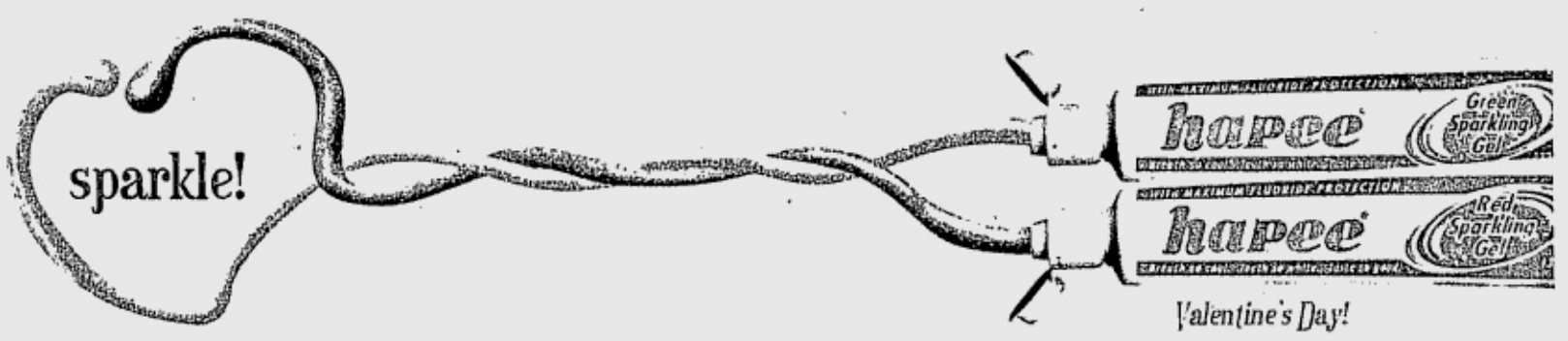
Jolina Magdangal	SM City Sta. Mesa • Feb. 15
Nyoy Volante with Mannos	SM City Lucena • Feb. 8 SM City Marilao • Feb. 22
Passage	SM Sucat • Feb. 10 SM City Pampanga • Feb. 14 SM City Baguio • Feb. 15
Jay-R	SM Southmall • Feb. 16 SM City Fairview • Feb. 17
True Faith	SM City Bicutan • Feb. 13 SM City Manila • Feb. 14
Nina	SM City Southmall • Feb. 15

Love days at the malls
All Malls
February 9 - 15 • 4 - 6 pm
Megastrip
February 13 - 15 • 7 - 9 pm

Beating Hearts

John Loyd Cruz & Bea Alonzo	SM City North Edsa • Feb. 14
Paulo Contis & Nancy Castiglione	SM City Marilao • Feb. 20

SM Supermalls
SM CITY North EDSA • Megamall • Manila • Sta. Mesa • Bicutan • Las Piñas • Sucat • Fairview • Bacoor • Pampanga • Cebu • Davao • Cagayan de Oro • Iloilo • Lucena • Baguio • Marilao

On your big night, sparkle!


Valentine's Day!

LAMOIYAN CORPORATION

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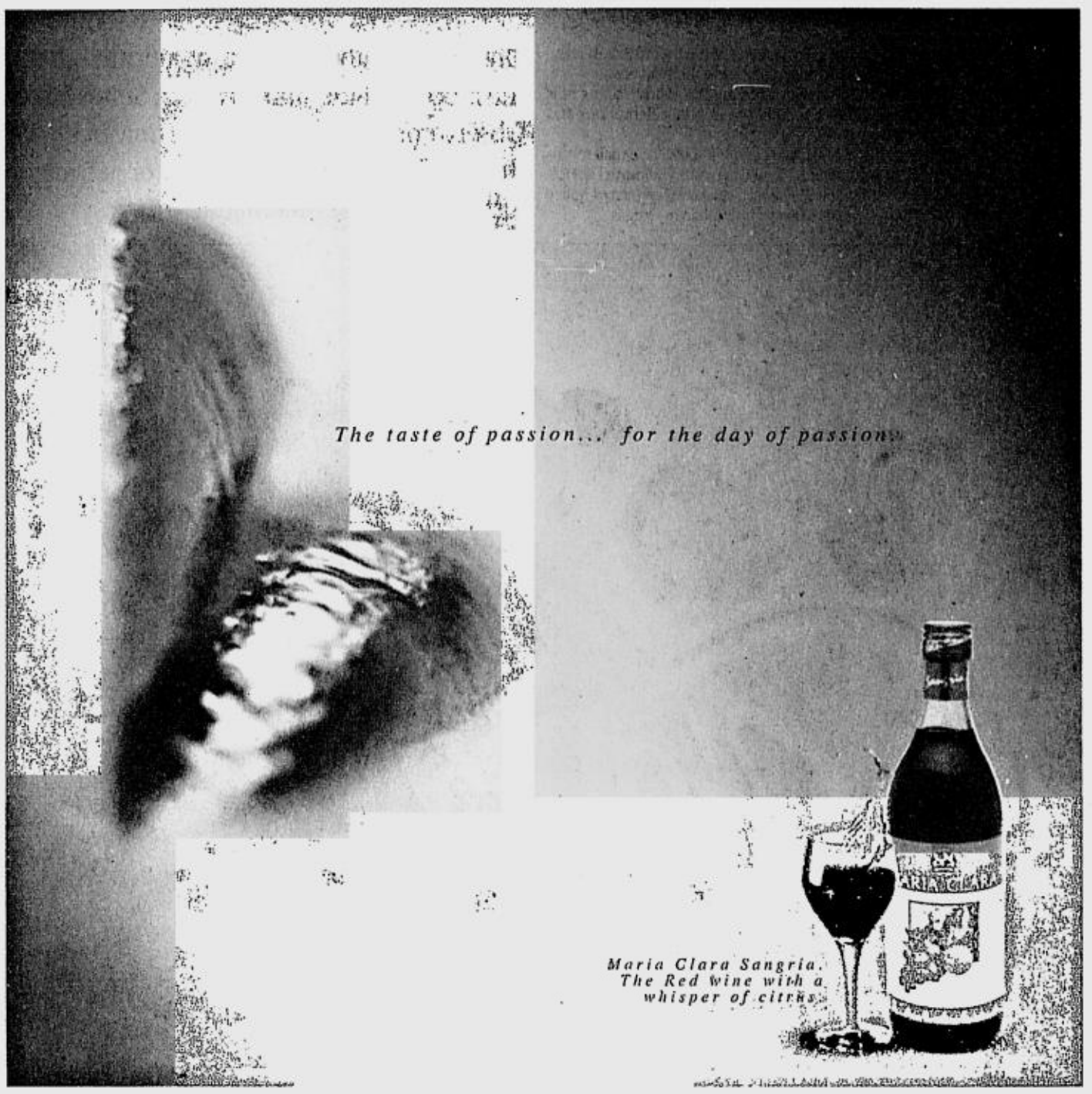


Pay only P143 for BK Valentine package for 2

BOTH lovers and lovers of Burger King are in for a royal package for two this Valentine.

For only P143, Burger King guests enjoy a fulfilling meal for two. The package includes two BK Blazing Burger supreme with cheese, two regular fries, two refillable drinks and two chocolate sundae savers.

A much-awaited concert date or a simple stroll at the park can both be started or capped with the P143 package. The offer lasts throughout the love month of February.

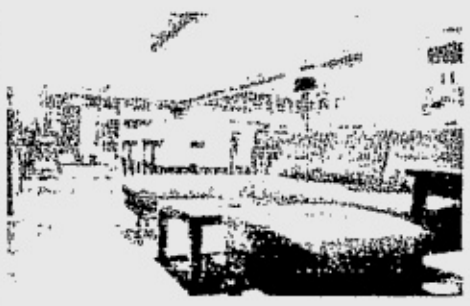
Burger King lovers, on the other hand, get this treat for the value and the taste of fire-grilled burgers that they keep coming back for.

At Burger King, traditions for caring and showering of affection is offered through high quality products. Burger King restaurants are packed with attractively priced variety of choices.

Burger King, home of the Whopper, takes pride in serving a variety of great-tasting meals and the best-tasting burgers.

The Burger King system operates more than 11,350 restaurants in all 50 US states and in 58 countries. Since its founding in the United States, it has become recognized for great fire-grilled taste and customizing to suit customer preference.

Exclusive Valentine affair at Zeno



A TASTEFUL evening of fine dining and luxury promises to make a unique Valentine celebration for BMW owners and enthusiasts who visit Zeno, the country's first and only BMW Lifestyle Lounge, on Feb 14.

BMW car and motorcycle owners need only have their BMW key with them to enjoy a special dinner menu package ideal for groups of two or more, expertly prepared by the classy venue's renowned chef.

Those who avail themselves of the exclusive dinner will be entitled to free fine wine, the Zeno Love Collection CD, chocolates and roses, compliments of the BMW Lifestyle Lounge. And those who come for a test drive on Feb. 14 are entitled to the same special Valentine treats at Zeno.

For the two-night affair, guests of Zeno will further be treated to elegant entertainment with notable singer-pianist Chris Medina, Valentine-themed fun and games, and sexy house music.

Synonymous with the choicest in fine dining, Zeno serves breakfast, lunch, dinner, and cocktails on weekdays from 7 a.m to 12 midnight and on weekends from 7 a.m to 2 a.m.

The BMW Lifestyle Lounge was named in honor of German pilot Franz Zeno Diemer, who set a world altitude record in 1919 using a plane equipped with a BMW IV engine.

Those who wish to be present at Zeno's exclusive Valentine evenings can call 438-0417 or 0917- 8124659. Visit Zeno in Autohaus BMW at 184 E. Rodriguez Jr Avenue, Libis, Quezon City.

FERNANDINA 88 SUITES HOTEL'S VALENTINE'S DINNER

Fernandina 88 Suites Hotel and 1572 Restaurant and Ballroom, Araneta Center, Cubao will have a two-night Valentine's dinner special on Feb. 13 and 14. Dubbed as 'A Night To Remember', the dinner includes a complete package, sweet red wine and a rose for the ladies accompanied by entertainment. Tickets are at P500 with a 10-percent discount for couples or group. It offers a chance to win a free overnight stay at the hotel. Reservations and inquiries can be made at 438-8651 and 913-7756.

Love day at Chili's

CHILI'S Grill and Bar Restaurant has cooked up some treats for diners on Valentine weekend. On Feb. 14, Valentine's Day, Chili's will be giving away chocolate lollipops to all the ladies while supplies last. Free wine sampling will be made available for dining guests. There will also be a costume contest among the food servers where diners can participate by casting their votes. On the following day, it's the kids' turn to be treated to free chocolate lollipops. Chili's offers an array of delectable food and drinks. The Ribeye and Prawn is a classic favorite, while the Molten Chocolate Cake is a bestseller among desserts. The hefty portions are good enough for sharing. Walk-in clients are welcome, but it is advisable to reserve in advance to be assured of being accommodated at once. Chili's Grill and Bar has three branches for reservations: Chili's - Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati (867-2727); Chili's at 26 Missouri Street, Northeast Greenhills (727-2959); and Chili's in Tomas Morato Avenue, Quezon City (372-5017).

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Entertainment / A32
Desperately seeking 'Roberta'

■ Magazine / Q5
Matching Mar Roxas

■ Opinion / A16
Issues presidential bets must address

■ Sports / A26
Kobe Bryant wants to be a Laker for life

■ News / A2
Power designer Joe Salazar dies at 59

■ Lifestyle / E1
Love, Middle Earth style

There's no 'taho' in Sydney

By Celina Ribeiro

I NEVER thought I would like Manila, a city I never even imagined I would visit in my lifetime. But now, as the date of my departure approaches, I find that I do not want to leave.

I came to the Philippines on a Ken and Yasuko Myer Fellowship. The program sends graduating Australian journalism students to work in newspapers in Southeast Asia in or

THERE'S/ A22

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph . February 15, 2004 ★★ 96 88 pages / 11 sections / vol. 19 / no. 69 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Inquirer to cost ₱18

FOR THE past three years, the Philippine Daily Inquirer has carried out various cost-cutting measures to keep the cover price steady at P15. During this period, however, the peso has sharply depreciated by as much as 25 percent, jacking up production costs, particularly of imported paper.

So that PDI can continue to deliver the same quality newspaper to readers, the company has decided to raise the INQUIRER cover price to P18 starting Monday, Feb. 16. Issues from Monday to Sunday will have the same cover price.

Mayoral bet, aide killed

Left blames soldiers for 1st election violence

By Donna T. Virola and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NAUJAN, Oriental Mindoro—The vice mayor of this town and her companion, a district coordinator of the party-list group Bayan Muna, were found dead Friday, some five hours after attending President Macapagal-Arroyo's campaign program in the capital city of Calapan.

The body of Vice Mayor Juvy Magsino, 34, a human rights lawyer, was found in her Revo car at around 10:30 p.m. in Barangay Pinasabangan 2, some 20 kilometers from Calapan. It bore three gunshot wounds in the head, one in the nape and two in the back.

That of Leima Fortu, 27, a teacher and acting secretary general of Karapatan-Oriental Mindoro, had two gunshot wounds in the back.

Magsino is the first female politician killed in the history of Mindoro. She was the mayoral candidate of the ruling Lakas-CMD and president of the Vice Mayors League in Oriental Mindoro.

Gov. Bartolome Marasigan Sr. has ordered an investigation of the incident.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo yesterday said by phone from Manila that Ms Macapagal should immediately order a thorough investigation of the twin murders.

"The murderous spree being committed against Bayan Muna members must stop," Ocampo said.

The party-list group believes that the military has been targeting its members. According to Bayan Muna statistics, Magsino and Fortu were the 19th and 20th

MAYORAL/ A9

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

'PECKING (dis) order: A kiss is just a kiss but not if the kissers stretch 2-km long during the first kissathon on the eve of Valentine's Day at the Roxas Blvd. Baywalk.

5,122 pairs smooch their way to world kissing record

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

THE YOUNG once still manage to pucker up in remembrance of things past. The oldest couple make it happen as thousands cheer.

By Tarra Quismundo

IT MAY not have settled the oft-repeated claim that Filipinos are the world's greatest lovers, but it came close.

On the eve of the most romantic day of the year, 5,122 Filipino couples locked lips for 10 seconds and smooched their way to the world record for the number of simultaneous kisses.

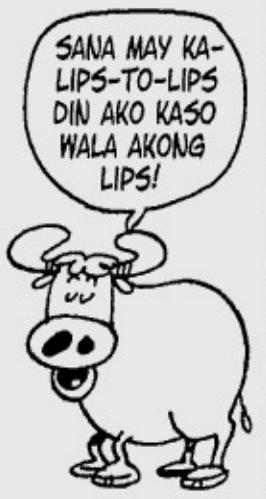
The achievement has yet to be certified by the Guinness Book of World Records but organizers of the "Close-up Lovapaloza" said the kissfest had broken the old record for most people kissing in one area set by 4,500 couples in the Chilean capital of Santiago last year.

The mass lip-lock, sponsored by the city government and manufacturers of Close-up toothpaste, derived its name from the "Lollapalooza" music marathon held in the United States in the 1990s and followed a Friday night countdown into Valentine's Day.

"We were looking for an event to mark Valentine's Day meaningfully," said Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, 62, who led the kissfest by kissing his wife, Evelina. Both were wearing red, with the mayor in his trademark florals.

The mayor's councilor son, Kim, and his wife also joined the line of

5,122 PAIRS/ A22



Ping steals show from GMA at PMA homecoming

By Alcuin Papa
and PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—President Macapagal-Arroyo was the guest of honor at the Philippine Military Academy alumni homecoming yesterday, but the show was virtually stolen by her political rival, Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

All eyes were on Lacson (PMA Class 1971) as he shook hands with other alumni just before the annual parade of cavaliers started at the Borromeo Field.

"It is nice to be back home after 33 years," he said. "Here we are again to be with our fellow alumni and to celebrate this momentous occasion. I passed through different classes, upperclassmen and underclassmen, and today, we cannot be sweeter to each other because it is Valentine's Day."

The last time Lacson attended a PMA alumni homecoming, he was chief of the Philippine National Police during the Estrada administration.

Lacson took the occasion to take a swipe at Ms Macapagal, an honorary member of Class '78: "As my classmates say, blood is thicker than water. They would like to see a fellow cavalier succeed and try the leadership traits that he learned at the PMA. I am a regular alumnus; the other one is an adopted member."

As guest of honor, Ms Macapagal marched at the head of the line of alumni classes together with Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Narciso Abaya and Maj. Gen. Edilberto Adan.

But she did not deliver a speech. Her only "speaking part" was when she administered the oath to the new officers of the PMA Alumni Association.

Asked why she did not address the alumni, she said: "Because, well, I felt I don't want to make a

PING/ A20

Resigned official back in Cabinet

By Fe Zamora
Contributor

NORBERTO Gonzales Jr., who resigned last month as presidential adviser for special concerns, will be returning to the Cabinet as director general of the National Security Council starting Monday.

The new appointment, which was reportedly signed on Feb. 7, was said to have been done to appease Gonzales whose reported disagreements with the members of President Macapagal-Arroyo's campaign team, particularly First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, may have been the cause of his resignation on Jan. 13.

But his new appointment is said to have triggered dissatisfaction among Palace officials and Ms Macapagal's political allies.

"He is a threat to national security. How can he be there at NSC?" one Mindanao-based politician is reported to have said.

RESIGNED/ A9

How the Webbs cope: They never weep together

RUDY ESPERAS

"CONSIDER your family your first church," Elizabeth Webb says this is the lesson she has learned in the past nine years with husband Freddie, sons Jason and Fritz and daughter Mabeth (right). They hope for vindication.

By Volt Contreras

WHATEVER else the Webbs do as a family, they don't weep together.

Almost nine years since Hubert Webb was jailed and eventually convicted along with six others for the 1991 "Vizconde massacre," members of his family have found ways to keep themselves sufficiently strong to continue challenging the verdict in and out of court, and sufficiently cohesive to carry on.

An interview with the Webbs last Thursday revealed how they have managed to pick up their individual lives.

The father, former Sen. Freddie Webb, has lost his political luster but has sustained a public life, taking every opportunity to tell "the truth" to any gathering that would listen:

HOW/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2004
E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph
Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/02/15/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Calm followers, Poe told

By Cynthia D. Balana, Gil Cabacungan, Carlito Pablo, Michael Lim Ubac and Alcuin Papa

LAKAS congressmen yesterday asked movie actor Fernando Poe Jr. to calm his followers amid threats of massive protests in case the Supreme Court disqualifies him from the presidential race.

Representatives Robert Ace Barbers (Surigao del Norte), Monico Puentevella (Bacolod City), Mauricio Domogan (Baguio City) and Prospero Pichay (Surigao del Sur) said Poe may not be calling for civil unrest but his supporters were agitating for it.

Reelectionist Sen. Robert Barbers advised Poe "to steer clear of using tough movie talk in his campaign speeches that might send the wrong signal to his supporters."

Barbers, chair of the Senate committee on public order who is seeking reelection under the K-4 coalition, said such irresponsible statements could "set off civil unrest and result in irreparable backlash to the country's future."

Puentevella said Poe and his supporters must realize that no one is above the law. "The Supreme Court is the last bulwark of democracy. In case Poe is disqualified and blood is spilled in a riot, it will be on the hands of Poe," he said.

Domogan said Poe should be his own man. "He should prove to the country that he has a mind of his own and will refuse provocateurs who are only using him to promote their vested interests," he said.

Pichay said Poe's threat was a form of adventurism that was even worse than those of the Abu Sayyaf and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front combined. "Poe's adventurism will drive away investors, thereby ensuring unemployment and collapse of the economy," he said.

Malacañang yesterday said "cooler heads" were ready to step in and help defuse the tense situation created over Poe's disqualification case.

In an interview with RMN radio, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said: "We need to call on our people to maintain civility and obedience to law." He added the President was confident the public would not heed any call by the opposition to disobey the government.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan bluntly told the opposition camp to stop using the bogey of anarchy and civil unrest to prevent the high court from exercising judicial determination on the disqualification case against Poe.

In contrast to the steamy reactions of administration supporters, Poe's camp isn't saying whether or not the movie actor and his followers will respect and abide by the decision of the Supreme Court.

"We'll cross the bridge when we get there," said Rep. Francis Escudero (NPC, Sorsogon), the newly designated official spokesperson of Poe.

Three allies of Poe—senatorial candidates Ernesto Herrera, Didagen Dilangalen and Harry Angping—said that Poe will continue to campaign even if he is disqualified.

Meanwhile, Herrera yesterday called for the voluntary inhibition of the eight Supreme Court appointees of President Macapagal-Arroyo in the disqualification case involving actor Poe.

Herrera, who had recently switched over to the opposition to pursue a comeback bid to the Senate under Poe's banner, said the conflict of interest on the part of the eight appointees is "not just potential or imaginary."

Eight of the 15 high court magistrates are appointees of Ms Macapagal, namely, Justices Antonio Carpio, Renato Corona, Dante Tinga, Alicia Austria-Martinez, Conchita Morales, Romeo Callejo Sr., Adolfo Azcuna and Minita Nazario.

The high tribunal will hear oral arguments on the case on Feb. 19.

Pichay said the eight justices should not be discharged for conflict of interest. "They are not relatives of the President and she is not even a party in any way in this case," he said.

Presidential candidate Sen. Panfilo Lacson advised Poe to respect the decision of the Supreme Court.

"When the highest court of the land, the final arbiter, the final interpreter of the laws finally speaks, I think it is incumbent upon us, rightly or wrongly, whether the decision is wrong or right, we should abide," Lacson said when interviewed by reporters at the Philippine Military Academy alumni homecoming in Baguio City.

He also reminded Poe that he himself had to respect the decision of the Supreme Court when it remanded the Kuratong Baleleng case to lower courts.

Joe Salazar, power designer, dies at 59

By Lito B. Zulueta
Lifestyle

FASHION designer Joe Salazar, whose exquisite Filipiniana gowns made him the darling of the fashion cognoscenti for three decades, died of throat cancer yesterday afternoon in his Malate home. He was 59.

Salazar, who had been battling the Big C for two years, appeared to have recovered last August when Metro magazine held a grand retrospective show in his honor at the ELJ Center at the ABS-CBN complex in Quezon City. But his condition had worsened by the time the Metropolitan Museum of Manila paid him a tribute through a *terno* exhibit.

His remains, which will be cremated as he had wished, will be at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati City. Interment plans will be announced later.

Salazar belonged to the elite circle of designers who helped define Philippine haute couture after the era of the great Ramon Valera. This circle includes Ben Farrales, Pitoy Moreno, Christian Espiritu, Ernest Santiago, Auggie Cordero, Inno Sotto and Nolie Hans.

Salazar particularly became known for reinventing traditional Filipino fashion forms and fabrics. A master of the silhouette, he could drape a mannequin in Grecian splendor much like Madame Gres.

Like most established designers, Salazar came to fashion via a circuitous route. He was an architecture student at the Mapua Institute of Technology when he dropped out and apprenticed with Farrales in the '70s to pursue his love for fashion.

He came to popular consciousness when movie columnist Ethel Ramos introduced him to actress-singer Nora Aunor, then the superstar of Philippine entertainment. He dressed the diminutive entertainer in pantsuits that made her look taller.

His involvement with show biz showed Salazar could navigate between high fashion and popular taste. He would also design for Aga Muhlach, Francis Magalona, Lucy Torres and Charlene Gonzales.

Give me a chance, new Comelec exec pleads

NEWLY-NAMED Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano yesterday appealed for an end to the criticism against him as he asked detractors to give him a chance to prove his worth.

Sen. Franklin Drilon had called on Garcillano to step down because of allegations he was involved in the infamous *"dagdag-bawas"* (vote-padding and shaving) scheme during the 1995 elections. Garcillano, however, said a review of the cases would prove that *dagdag-bawas* did not occur in the area where he served. "If there were accusations, the cases were filed in Luzon—in Ilocos Norte, Pangasinan, Bataan and Laguna," he told the INQUIRER.

Drilon also accused Garcillano of not having a "sterling" record. The new Comelec official said it would be better if his record was verified with his colleagues. "I don't want it to come from me. You can ask the fieldmen. You can look into my records," he said.

Garcillano joined the Comelec in 1961 as a special lawyer for Sulu. Two years later, he became a field lawyer. In 1964, he was the election registrar in Jligan City; in 1967, he became the election supervisor of Lanao del Norte. He was assigned as the election supervisor of Lanao del Sur in 1970. Then he served for a year in Isabela.

From 1972 to 1974, he served as the election supervisor in Mindoro Occidental before he was promoted to regional director of Region 9 in 1974. In 1976, he served as director for Cagayan de Oro City but left the service in 1986 after the ouster of former strongman Ferdinand Marcos. He then left for the United States where he taught high school for several years in Los Angeles.

In 1994, he returned home and was re-employed by the Comelec which reassigned him to Cagayan de Oro until 2002. The 66-year-old official retired in 2002 but was taken in by the poll body as a consultant for Mindanao.

Garcillano, with fellow appointee Manuel Barcelona, a lawyer, have been receiving flak from opposition lawmakers because of their supposed close links to Malacañang. Barcelona is said to have contributed to the election coffers of President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier.

Before their appointments, the Comelec had pushed for its executive director, Mamasapunod Aguam, but the recommendation was not acted upon by Malacañang. ***Martin P. Marfil***

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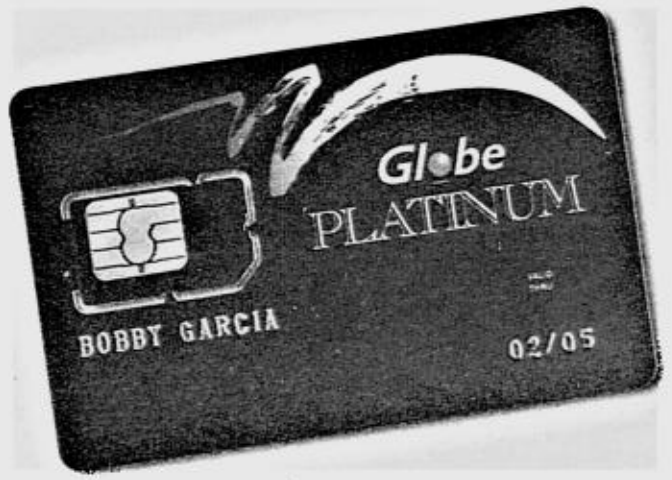

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Set passing grade at 50, tutors ask

By Dona Pazzibugan

FIX THE passing grade at 50.

This was the appeal of public school teachers to the Department of Education (DepEd), claiming many students would still flunk under the new grading system. The DepEd has reinstated the 70 passing mark after an order last year raising the passing grade to 75 caused many pupils to fail during the third grading period.

"It's only a partial victory," said Benjie Balbuena, president of the Manila Public School Teachers Association (MPSTA). He said the 70 passing mark is "not realistic" since the DepEd also imposed a stringent grading system.

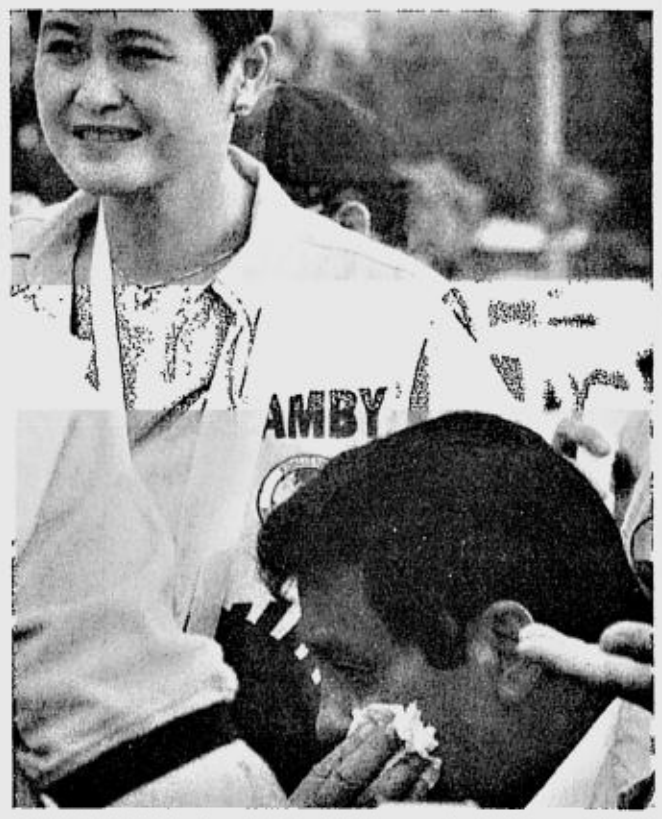
The DepEd has done away with the "transmutation tables" allowing pupils to get a passing grade in a test even if they correctly answered less than half of the test items. Balbuena said they also want to do away with the "deceptive" tables, but the DepEd should start the change by fixing the passing mark at 50. "Changes should be gradual and based on the realities on the ground," he said, adding that the DepEd still cannot provide public school pupils with adequate learning facilities.

The Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) also found the 70 passing grade "too high" as it, too, pushed for 50. "The overwhelming majority of students will still fail and the system will not be able to accommodate them," said ACT chair Antonio Tinio. The MPSTA and ACT have joined forces to launch a protest action announcing their latest demands at 8 a.m. today at the Liwasang Bonifacio.

For reviving the old grading system, Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus yesterday drew praises from his predecessor, presidential candidate Raul Roco. He said De Jesus made a good move by reviving the system in time for the next school year, and not in the final quarter of this school year.

"That is a good response because it's difficult to change the grading system in the last two months," the presidential bet told reporters during a break in his campaign sorties in Cebu province. "He is being responsive to the teachers and the parents." Besides, there was a need to revert to the old system because of the confusion caused by the current one, he added. However, he declined to discuss its merits.

Roco quit as education secretary in August 2002 after President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered him investigated for alleged graft. *With a report from TJ Burgonio*



TOUCH-UP. With the mid-morning sun proving hotter for him yesterday than the more familiar kleig lights, FPJ pats the famous face dry right after applying sunblock at the start of his motorcade. Senatorial candidate Jamby Madrigal doesn't seem to have as much of a problem. EDWIN BACASMAS

Roco takes drive to Cebu kids, vendors

By TJ Burgonio

CEBU CITY—Presidential candidate Raul Roco yesterday marked the "day of hearts" by having a hearty brunch of fried *galunggong* with children in a dusty village of Lapu-Lapu City, and greeting public market vendors in nearby cities.

Roco, standard-bearer of Alyansa ng Pag-asa, and his slate barnstormed Cebu province for the second day minus their wives, touring crowded dry public markets in Cebu, Lapu-Lapu and Mandaue cities. The province is perceived as a bailiwick of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is seeking a full term in the coming elections.

The 62-year-old Roco, who started the day early, rested at a roadside stand at around 10 a.m. after making an unscheduled visit to Sitio Mantawe, Barangay Langob-Poblacion, a depressed area in Lapu-Lapu City. With running mate Herminio Aquino and senatorial candidate Melanio "Batas" Mauricio, his team was joined by children and their elders who were welcomed with greetings of "Happy Valentine" from Roco.

Clad in his signature red floral shirt, Roco said his wife, Sonia, together with some of the wives of the senatorial candidates were flying in for dinner at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City later. "We want to spend Valentine's Day in Cebu to show the Cebuanos how the Alyansa loves them," he said.

Fantastic education

"Campaigning is an educational and a humbling experience," he told the crowds who milled around him. "A national campaign is a fantastic education. You learn about the geography, you learn the people, you see how they react, and they're so open. That is the value of a campaign."

Roco's convoy then proceeded to the St. Joseph Shrine in Mandaue City where the presidential candidate gamely posed with a newly-wed couple at the steps of the church. Later the entourage walked to the city's public market, stopping to meet vendors.

In a pep talk with local supporters Saturday night, former Cebu Gov. Lito Osmeña, head of the Promdi which coalesced with Roco's Aksyon Demokratiko and Renato de Villa's Reporma to form Alyansa ng Pag-asa said he was "elated" by the huge turnout of students during the ticket's tour of universities in Cebu City on Saturday. "It's not so much the numbers; it's the enthusiasm," he said.

Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Villafuerte, Roco's fellow Bicolano, however, was not as enthusiastic.

'Inside-out'

At a press forum in Quezon City yesterday, Villafuerte, who claims to know Roco "inside-out," said the Bicol region is no longer Roco country as there are several indications the Bicolano presidential aspirant no longer enjoys the solid support of his townmates.

"Those who know Roco very well will not vote for him. He's not a team player and many no longer believe in his visions. He only talks about generalities," Villafuerte said, explaining that Roco could not even get a credible running mate or tap enough people to fill up his senatorial slate.

Roco enjoyed solid support from the region in his 1998 presidential bid. Villafuerte, however, claimed that of the 35 municipalities in the region, only seven had registered under Roco's Alyansa ng Pag-asa. He added that most of the governors and other government officials in Bicol were against Roco.

A reelectionist, Villafuerte is running under the administration Lakas-CMD party against Roco's brother Sulpicio. *With a report from Tina Santos*

Duterte won't return Ping's endorsement

By Norman Bordadora

IT WAS a case of unrequited endorsement.

Opposition presidential candidate Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson expressed his affection for Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte by openly endorsing the mayor's reelection bid.

The city's strongman thanked him but declared his support for partymate President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Davao City is a good model of how a no-nonsense leadership and a good peace and order situation can help a city move forward," Lacson told reporters Friday in the Royal Mandaya in Davao City.

Pressed to identify who he was referring to, Lacson said: "Who else but Mayor Duterte."

He said that he and Duterte have been friends a long time. He added that they shared the same vision of a progressive society based on good peace and order.

In a radio interview later that day, Duterte said: "I thank Senator Lacson for those kind words but I will continue to support the President."

Accompanying Lacson in his visit to Mindanao was House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla, a veteran of many electoral battles. Padilla, the Nueva Vizcaya congressman is running as Lacson's lone senatorial candidate.

In spite of Padilla's age, he captured the people's hearts with his humor.

"While many women scream and run to kiss Senator Lacson, nobody bothers with me," Padilla revealed to the audience in the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino's campaign swing in Mindanao last week.

"Earlier, I got a kiss. But it was from a 75-year-old woman," he said feigning envy.

"The woman even had a missing tooth!" he said and the crowd laughed and cheered.

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Ex-hostages spread peace on day of love

ISABELA CITY, Basilan—For most people, Valentine's Day means a romantic date, flowers and chocolates.

But for several rescued victims of the Abu Sayyaf, the only way the universal feast of love could be made meaningful was through a campaign for peace.

And so yesterday and on Friday, a group of more than 100 people consisting of former hostages and their families gathered at the Querexeta Formation Center here, to participate in peace workshops, psychotherapy and counseling sessions conducted with the help of the local Catholic Church leadership.

Espie Hupida, program coordinator for the diocesan Justice and Peace ministry, said the event marked the second anniversary of Basilan's Memorial for Peace shrine.

The shrine is located in the center and consists of reminders of the bandits' atrocities, with a bullet-riddled jeep as its centerpiece.

Hupida said this year's celebration was a tribute to Basilan folk who became martyrs in the hands of the Abus. In the coming months, she said, the ministry hoped to launch more of the same activities for the former hostages.

Peace weavers

"We hope to uplift their consciousness from victims to survivors and, ultimately, peace weavers," she said.

Tens of civilians have died in violent incidents related to Abu Sayyaf activities in Basilan since 1994. On June 8 of that year alone, 16 were murdered in nearby Lumbang town. It was on the same day that the bandits kidnapped Father Cirilo Nacorda here, along with some nuns.

On March 5, 1996, three employees of a construction company were snatched in Tuburan town; and on Feb. 14, 1999, five members of Alay-Kapwa—an urban poor cooperative—were killed in an ambush in Sumisip.

On Aug. 2, 2001, 35 persons, including children, were abducted in Balobo, Lamitan. At least 10 of the captives were beheaded. Basilan Bishop Martin Jumoad said several other violent incidents in the province had not been recorded because of lack of data.

"But one incident is enough to sow terror and fear among peace loving Basileños," the prelate said.

Baby Ilagan, 60, lone survivor of the Sumisip raid, admitted the incident still hounded her, but said she wanted to serve as a "model" for other survivors.

Jumoad believes Ilagan has succeeded. "Despite the harrowing ordeal," he said, "she managed to overcome the pain and encouraged other (victims) to forgive."

Jumoad is convinced this is the best deterrent against more violence. "Our Valentine celebration is very unique," he said. "We go for healing as much as justice, and ultimately work for peace. If we don't ... there will be more bloodshed." ***Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Even relatives won't share John O stage

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Reelectionist Cebuano Senator John Osmeña may be barred from his party's major rallies in his own turf.

Three key pro-administration political leaders—including the senator's cousin, Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña—have refused to share the stage with him for the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats' forthcoming sorties in the province.

The mayor said Lakas-CMD officials in Manila had arranged for a rally in his city but there were hitches because he insisted that his cousin not go onstage.

Mayor Thadeo Ouano of vote-rich Mandaue City and Lakas gubernatorial candidate Gwendolyn Garcia, daughter of outgoing Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia, have expressed the same sentiment.

The three slammed the senator for "arrogance." Mayor Osmeña went up two notches, describing his cousin as "anti-Cebuano" and "anti-local government."

President Macapagal-Arroyo and her K4 slate are expected here on Feb. 27, according to Presidential Assistant for Central Visayas Felix Guanzon.

Ouano, Gwendolyn Garcia and Mayor Osmeña recounted that, as chairman of the powerful Senate finance committee during the term of ousted President Joseph Estrada, John O had blocked projects of his political foes in Cebu. They especially recalled his "infamous" statement: "Weather-weather *lang* 'yan (to each his own time)."

Mayor Osmeña, who is seeking reelection under his local party Bando Osmeña-Pundok Kauswagan (BOPK), vowed to junk his cousin from K4's senatorial slate.

Ouano, also a reelectionist, said he already told Ms Macapagal that the senator was simply not welcome in Mandaue.

Gwendolyn Garcia said 20 other mayors in the province were dumping the senator, and so he should be "ashamed" to even try to join the rally that her camp would organize for Lakas-CMD.

Gov't, Reds score breakthrough in Oslo

OSLO, Norway—The Philippine government and the country's communist guerrillas signed a joint statement in this capital Saturday that included a compromise on the thorny issue of whether the rebels should continue to be labeled as terrorists.

"After four days of rigorous and sometimes heated discussions which threatened to disrupt our negotiations over some very contentious issues . . . we are very happy to announce that we have just made a big bold step in our journey for peace," Silvestre Bello, the chief government negotiator, said at a press conference.

The talks, which formally resumed in Oslo this week after nearly three years away from the negotiating table, concluded Saturday morning.

After a long night of negotiations, the delegates on both sides of the conflict signed the "Oslo Joint Statement" amidst smiles and warm embraces.

The declaration calls on the United States, the members of the European Union, Canada and Australia "to support the efforts of the parties in resolving the outstanding issue of (the Philippine communist party and its armed faction, the New People's Army, being on) the 'terrorist' listing."

The National Democratic Front, which represents the communist party and the NPA, had demanded that the Philippine government join it in its demand that the Western countries strike it from their terrorist blacklists.

The communist rebellion is "not like al-Qaida or like Osama bin Laden," said Luis Jalandoni, head negotiator for the National Democratic Front. "Our practice and our principles are those of a liberation movement like ANC," the African National Congress, Nelson Mandela's South African anti-apartheid movement.

"The biggest terrorists are those sitting in the White House," Jalandoni told Agence France Presse following the ceremony. "Those carrying out state terrorism with so-called preemptive strikes, invading other countries like Afghanistan and Iraq, and bombing others like Yugoslavia."

From the government side of the negotiating table, however, Bello merely said the question of the terrorist label "would be undertaken by both sides... but without prejudice to our existing foreign policy."

The two delegations have asked that Norway, the facilitator of their talks, "shall inform the international community about this common position."

The government and the communists, which have been fighting each other for the past 35 years, also decided to create a joint committee to survey that both sides implement an agreement they signed in 1998 to respect human rights and international humanitarian laws.

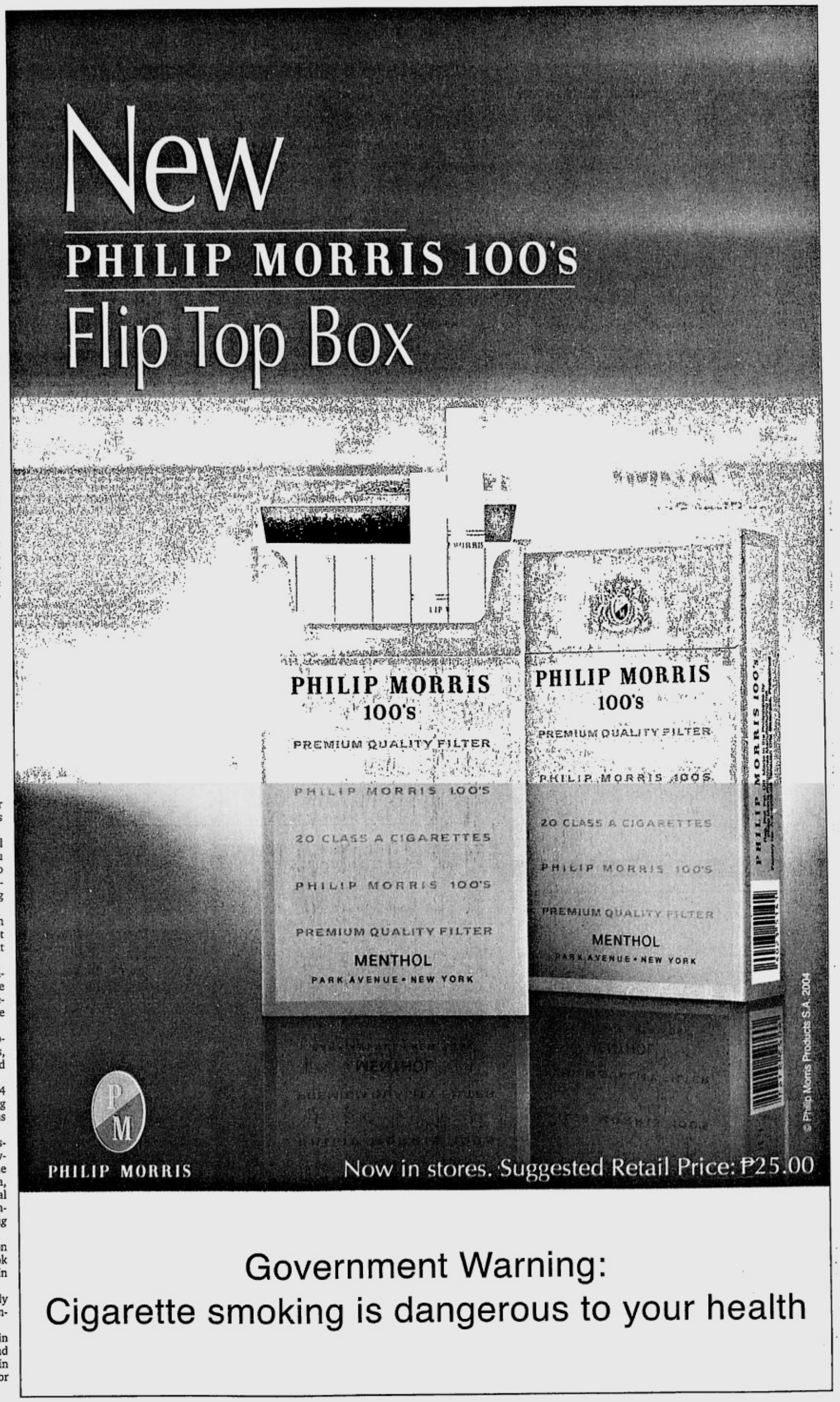
The two delegations also agreed on a new meeting at the end of March in Oslo or in China.

Earlier, the US State Department said it will remove the terrorist tag on the CPP once a peace agreement is reached in the peace talks.

US Embassy charges d'affaires Joseph Mussomeli told reporters yesterday that delisting the CPP from the list of "foreign terrorist organizations" would be an incentive for the CPP to forge a peace agreement with the government.

Mussomeli told reporters the terror listing should not be a hindrance to peace negotiations.

"The NPA has been on the FTO list several years now. That's where they belong. They can talk. If they reach a peace accord then they can get off the list," Mussomeli said. "The FTO list is really an incentive to them to start talking and give up terrorism. ***AFP; Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.***



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Aliens may recoup investments in dollars

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THE PHILIPPINES has eased restrictions on foreigners recovering their investments in dollars in the local stock market, Malacañang announced Saturday.

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Under new rules, foreign investors will find it easier to convert the peso proceeds of their stock investments into US dollars, provided the stocks were originally bought in dollars, the Palace said in a statement.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas believes this will encourage more portfolio investments in the country as there will be fewer restrictions on the outflow of dollars from the stock market, the Palace said.

The decision was also in response to repeated requests by large foreign investors and the Philippine Stock Exchange.

In the past, foreign investors were allowed to buy and unload shares in the stock market but they were prohibited from using the proceeds from stock sales to buy dollars from the spot market.

Such rules were intended to prevent "hot money" from coming in and out of the country in large volumes, making the foreign exchange rate unstable.

"But now, we decided that it would be better in the long run to liberalize these rules and allow foreign investors to recover their investments in dollars," BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco was quoted as saying.

Total portfolio investments in the Philippines rose to $675.8 million last year, three times the amount in 2002, the Palace said. *AFP*

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Gov't lifts ban on pork imports

SAN FERNANDO CITY—This is not the place for Miss Piggy.

The *tocino* and *longanisa* capital of the Philippines is experiencing a pork shortage.

Nineteen meat-processing companies in Pampanga reported yesterday they were down to their last pig knuckles. The government, seeking to avert a shortage, has lifted restrictions on imported pork from South Korea.

On Friday, Lorenzo agreed to allow the entry of imported pork from accredited meat suppliers. Jose Maria Hizon, vice president of the Pampanga Association of Meat Processors (Pampro), said the companies will resume importations next week and expect to import 250 metric tons or 8,800 kilos of pork daily.

The intervention of Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. was "timely" for the local industry that was "on the verge of collapse," Hizon said.

The pork shortage is a confluence of several factors. Eight months ago, the government stopped importing pork from South Korea, following an outbreak of hog cholera in the slaughterhouses there. Then the high cost of feeds pushed the prices of local pork up. This was followed by the bird flu scare, which has increased the demand for pork.

"The limited supply of raw materials resulted in the substantial increase of production costs and limited production volume," Pampro said, and asked for government support.

Yesterday, Pampro's pork stocks fell to an all-time low—less than three percent of the daily requirement of 60 metric tons or 1,500 kilos. Pampro leaders were already planning a "forced meat holiday" last Thursday, with several members considering closing down operations or reducing their work force by 60 percent. This would affect 19 companies which have 3,000 workers in Pampanga and about 10,000 dealers throughout Luzon.

On Friday, Lorenzo lifted restrictions on imported pork from South Korea. Reasonable prices and high sanitation standards make South Korea the source of 60 to 70 percent of pork stocks for the 19 Pampanga-based companies. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Graft court 'inaction' on SMC case rapped

By Dona Pazzibugan

GOVERNMENT lawyers have accused the Sandiganbayan of foot-dragging in the ownership dispute involving shares of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp.

The Office of the Solicitor General said the anti-graft court has not issued two crucial orders it had promised to last year.

In a status report to the Presidential Commission on Good Government, Associate Solicitor Raymond de Lemos explained that their efforts to have a ruling on Civil Case 33-F, which involves the ownership of SMC, have run into a wall.

"We have a window (to get a ruling) up until 2005," PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza said.

He would not say if he thought the Sandiganbayan was waiting out the outcome of the May 10 polls.

The government claims that 47 percent of SMC shares, consisting of 20 percent being held by SMC chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. and 27 percent belonging to 14 holding companies of the Coconut Industry Investment Fund, were bought with funds from the coconut levy.

The coco levy collected from coconut farmers between 1973 and 1982 as a forced tax through a presidential decree issued by the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos. Marcos appointed Cojuangco as the administrator of the funds.

The OSG, working with the PCGG, asked for a summary judgment on the 27 percent bloc on July 25, 2002 and on the 20 percent bloc on July 11, 2003.

In September 2003, the Sandiganbayan lifted the freeze order on the 20 percent of SMC shares being claimed by Cojuangco, setting back government efforts to gain control of the food and beverage giant. But the PCGG appealed the ruling.

On Oct. 21, 2003, the Sandiganbayan's First Division said it would issue an order stating the "incontrovertible facts" on the 20 percent bloc of shares.

It then directed the government and Cojuangco's lawyers to submit their comments within 10 days.

"To date, however, the OSG has not yet received a copy of such order," the OSG said.

On Dec. 5, 2003, the court promised to issue a similar order for the 27 percent bloc.

"To date the OSG has not yet received a copy of such order," the OSG said.

In 1986, the government of President Corazon Aquino sequestered the 27 percent stake in SMC under CIIF Holding Companies, a private fund, on suspicion the shares were illegally acquired during the Marcos rule.

The government, through the PCGG, has voting rights on the 27 percent stake held by CIIF.

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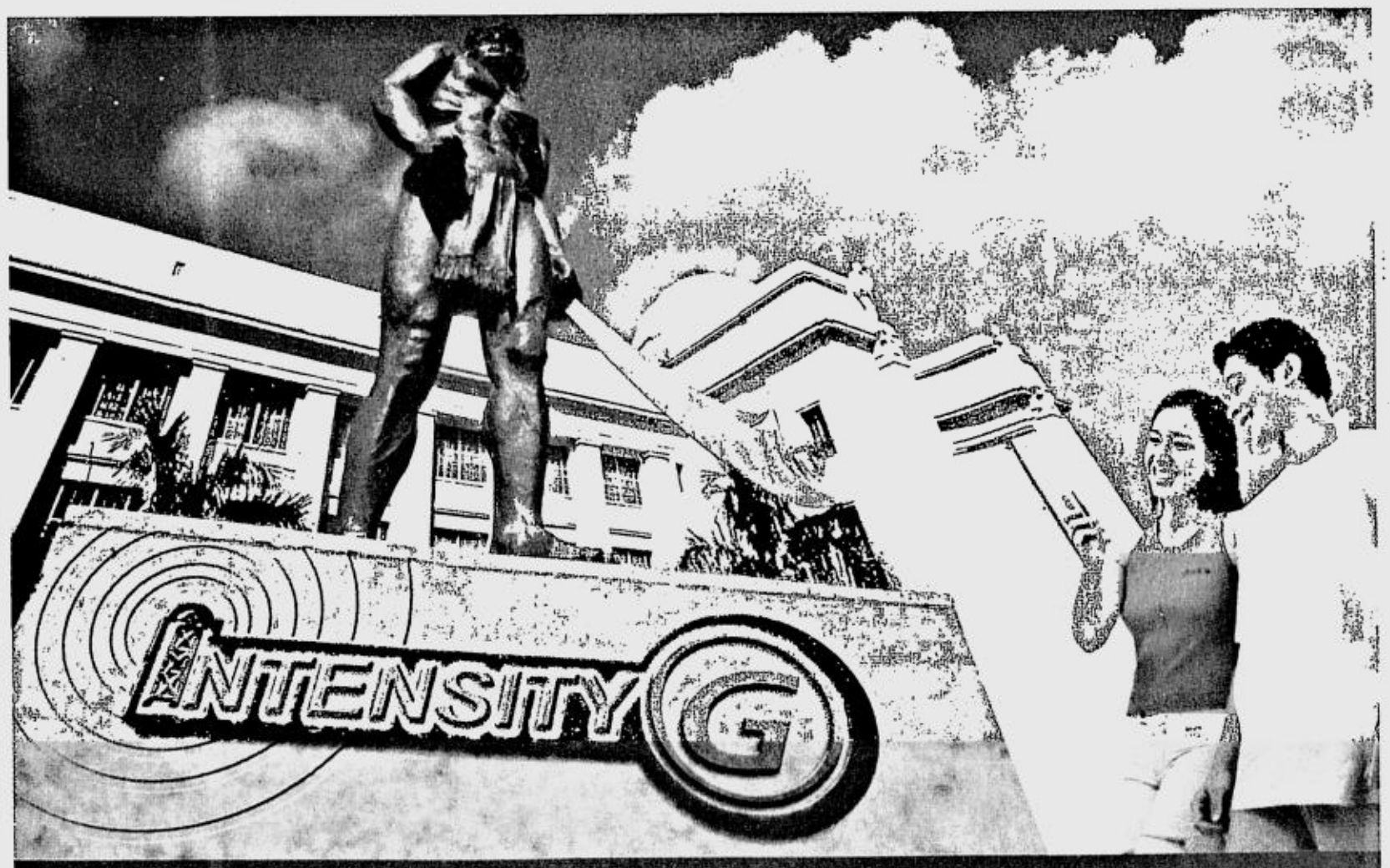

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How the Webbs cope: They never weep together

From page A1

the media, religious groups, Rotarians, etc.

In the household, it's the mother, Elizabeth, who leads the effort against spiritual and emotional collapse. A formula seems to have worked: "We've seen to it that we don't weep together."

Mabeth Agcaoili, eldest of the six Webb siblings, explained her mother's tack: "We can't cry and be low at the same time because nobody will get us out of it. It's like taking turns in going into depression."

The case stirred public fury: Estrellita Vizconde and her daughters Carmela and Jennifer were murdered in an attack on June 30, 1991. They were found in their home stabbed more than 10 times; Carmela was raped.

Lauro Vizconde, husband and father of the three, was in the United States at the time.

The talk is that the Supreme Court will issue a ruling anytime soon on the appeal of Hubert Webb et al.

Family tree

Much has happened since Hubert, now 35 and the fourth child in the brood, was put behind bars, first as a suspect at the Parañaque City Jail in August 1995, and as a convict at the New Bilibid Prisons five years later.

Three more grandchildren have since been born, all by Fritz, the third eldest and owner of a pizza parlor and a salon. They have brought to six the number of third-generation Webbs taken along on the Sunday visits to "Uncle Hubert" at the NBP.

Freddie and Elizabeth's youngest child, Jason, who used to share a bedroom with Hubert, got married in 2002.

Jason, a professional basketball player and majority stockholder of two Japanese restaurants (one at the Ortigas Center in Pasig, the other in Makati), said he had wanted to "wait" for Hubert to come home a free man and stand as best man at the latter's own wedding.

Pinky, the fifth child, is now a news anchor for ABS-CBN and its cable news affiliate, ANC.

The second child, Michael, an architect, remains based in the United States.

Freddie, who tried but failed to win a fresh senatorial term in 1998, has just opened a new avenue for himself.

The former professional basketball player, town councilor, congressman, and one-time sitcom star was scheduled to launch his own sports-oriented talk show over dzMM radio yesterday afternoon.

'Little joys'

The Webbs try to make the most of Hubert's company. They visit from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Sunday, longer every Christmas and New Year's Day, at the NBP—which some of the kids call "The Castle" because of its facade.

Mabeth counts a tumbler of Starbucks coffee among the "little joys" she has brought her brother.

Wry prison jokes are swapped during the visits. Fritz would teasingly invite Hubert to dinner at his bar of choice. Or Freddie would ask his son, who has just emerged from the cell wearing a Sunday shirt, long pants and leather shoes: "Where do you think you're going?"

Elizabeth sees to it that Hubert gets a weekly supply of rubbing alcohol and insecticides for his cell, among other provisions.

She recalled with a smile that she received flowers from him for her birthday.

But then these tender moments cannot eclipse the bitterness that the Webbs said they had been enduring.

HUBERT Webb: 9 years in jail.

Frisking

"The most painful part for me is when I cross the line and they [the prison guards] have to frisk me," Elizabeth said, pointing to her bosom. "I die every time they do that."

"And how do you explain that to the small grandchildren?" Mabeth said.

Elizabeth said that during the first three or four years of Hubert's incarceration, she could barely sleep at night because "any phone call I could get at the time" might bear the news that he had succumbed to his potentially fatal condition of asthma.

She said she wept at seeing that Hubert had gotten himself a Sigue-Sigue Sputnik gang tattoo on his chest when still at the Parañaque jail: "They say it's for his own protection, but it will forever remind me..."

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Brat, drug addict

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"Hubert was painted by the press as a brat, a drug addict," Fritz said. He said even Jason, then a rising varsity player, shared in the public humiliation when at one game the crowd tauntingly shouted, "Viz-con-de! Vis-con-de!"

"But whether Hubert was a saint or a devil, it shouldn't have mattered because it had nothing to do with [the question of] whether he was here or not [at the time of the crime]," Fritz added.

At that time, the public was "clamoring for blood," Freddie said. And the media, Fritz said, "preyed on the paranoia of the masses."

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The first lesson being, "that your family is also your first church."

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6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Blessed is the man who puts his trust in Yahweh and whose confidence is in him! He is like a tree planted by the water, sending out its roots towards the stream.

He has no fear when the heat comes, his leaves are always green; the year of drought is no problem and he can always bear fruit."

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If Christ is preached as risen from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

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Coming down the hill with them, Jesus stood on a level place. Many of his disciples were there and a large crowd of people who had come from all parts of Judea and Jerusalem and from the coastal cities of Tyre and Sidon.

Then looking at his disciples, Jesus said,

"Fortunate are you who are poor, the kingdom of God is yours."

Fortunate are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

Fortunate are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

Fortunate are you when people hate you, when they reject you and insult you and number you among criminals, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for a great reward is kept for you in heaven. Remember that is how the ancestors of this people treated the prophets.

But alas for you who have wealth, for you have been comforted now.

Alas for you who are full, for you will go hungry.

Alas for you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep.

Alas for you when people speak well of you, for that is how the ancestors of these people treated the false prophets."

Commentary

What's this? A diatribe against wealthy people?—a diatribe powered by the resentment of the poor? A diatribe from a strange mind that calls black white, rich poor, happiness misery? How could that come from Jesus of Nazareth? He did not hate the rich; he talked and shared meals with everyone, including the rich. This passage is not comparing the rich with the poor, coming down on the side of the poor. Aren't we constantly trying to defeat poverty and make poor people rich? How could you say, "Blessed are you poor," and then try to deprive them of their poverty, presumably making them rich and miserable? Nor is Jesus saying that the poor will be rich in the next life and the rich poor. He said, "Blessed are you, the poor," not "You will be blessed."

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How the Webbs cope: They never weep together

From page A1

the media, religious groups, Rotarians, etc.

In the household, it's the mother, Elizabeth, who leads the effort against spiritual and emotional collapse. A formula seems to have worked: "We've seen to it that we don't weep together."

Mabeth Agcaoili, eldest of the six Webb siblings, explained her mother's tack: "We can't cry and be low at the same time because nobody will get us out of it. It's like taking turns in going into depression."

The case stirred public fury: Estrellita Vizconde and her daughters Carmela and Jennifer were murdered in an attack on June 30, 1991. They were found in their home stabbed more than 10 times; Carmela was raped.

Lauro Vizconde, husband and father of the three, was in the United States at the time.

The talk is that the Supreme Court will issue a ruling anytime soon on the appeal of Hubert Webb et al.

Family tree

Much has happened since Hubert, now 35 and the fourth child in the brood, was put behind bars, first as a suspect at the Parañaque City Jail in August 1995, and as a convict at the New Bilibid Prisons five years later.

Three more grandchildren have since been born, all by Fritz, the third eldest and owner of a pizza parlor and a salon. They have brought to six the number of third-generation Webbs taken along on the Sunday visits to "Uncle Hubert" at the NBP.

Freddie and Elizabeth's youngest child, Jason, who used to share a bedroom with Hubert, got married in 2002.

Jason, a professional basketball player and majority stockholder of two Japanese restaurants (one at the Ortigas Center in Pasig, the other in Makati), said he had wanted to "wait" for Hubert to come home a free man and stand as best man at the latter's own wedding.

Pinky, the fifth child, is now a news anchor for ABS-CBN and its cable news affiliate, ANC.

The second child, Michael, an architect, remains based in the United States.

Freddie, who tried but failed to win a fresh senatorial term in 1998, has just opened a new avenue for himself.

The former professional basketball player, town councilor, congressman, and one-time sitcom star was scheduled to launch his own sports-oriented talk show over dzMM radio yesterday afternoon.

'Little joys'

The Webbs try to make the most of Hubert's company. They visit from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Sunday, longer every Christmas and New Year's Day, at the NBP—which some of the kids call "The Castle" because of its facade.

Mabeth counts a tumbler of Starbucks coffee among the "little joys" she has brought her brother.

Wry prison jokes are swapped during the visits. Fritz would teasingly invite Hubert to dinner at his bar of choice. Or Freddie would ask his son, who has just emerged from the cell wearing a Sunday shirt, long pants and leather shoes: "Where do you think you're going?"

Elizabeth sees to it that Hubert gets a weekly supply of rubbing alcohol and insecticides for his cell, among other provisions.

She recalled with a smile that she received flowers from him for her birthday.

But then these tender moments cannot eclipse the bitterness that the Webbs said they had been enduring.

HUBERT Webb: 9 years in jail.

Frisking

"The most painful part for me is when I cross the line and they [the prison guards] have to frisk me," Elizabeth said, pointing to her bosom. "I die every time they do that."

"And how do you explain that to the small grandchildren?" Mabeth said.

Elizabeth said that during the first three or four years of Hubert's incarceration, she could barely sleep at night because "any phone call I could get at the time" might bear the news that he had succumbed to his potentially fatal condition of asthma.

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Yes, the thought of the family migrating abroad also "crossed our minds," she confided.

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Brat, drug addict

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Mayoral bet, aide killed in Oriental Mindoro

From page A1

casualties in Mindoro, the 26th and 27th in Southern Tagalog, and the 36th and 37th nationwide.

"We have no doubt, and there's no reason to doubt, that the members of the 204th Army Infantry Brigade did it," said Robert de Castro, Bayan Muna deputy secretary general.

But Maj. Jose Broso, public information officer of the military's Southern Luzon Unified Command based in Camp Nakar, said it would be unfair to attribute all the killings to the military without legal basis.

"The murders could have been politically motivated because of the heat of the election season, or the victims were just used as sacrificial lambs to discredit and destroy the image of the military," Broso said.

Before the killing

Nelson Melgar, a three-term mayor of Naujan and Magsino's political adviser, told the INQUIRER that the killings were either political or military-related.

Melgar said Magsino visited his house in Naujan Friday night and left at 9:30 p.m. to get her computer at the house of government employee Gina Tria near the Iglesia ni Cristo church.

Tria said she heard shots after Magsino drove away from her house toward Barangay Adrialuna, where the latter's parents live.

Witnesses said they saw a man riding on a motorcycle, and Magsino's car swerve to the left to a rice field in Barangay Amuguis 50 meters from the highway.

Melgar said they found Magsino dead with her head on the steering wheel. He said her car's lights were still on.

He also said that three days earlier, Magsino received a text message saying she would not live past Feb. 15. He added that last Jan. 7, Magsino's driver found her car with a loose left front tire.

Melgar said it was the first time in the history of Mindoro that a woman politician was killed.

"If Magsino was an activist, a human rights lawyer, a leftist, what was her crime?" he said.

Melgar said he was wondering why the police wanted to remove Magsino's Revo between 2:30 and 3 a.m. yesterday, allegedly on orders of Senior Insp. William Destura, "to safeguard the scene of the crime."

He said he had objected because the two bodies had yet to be autopsied, and threatened to file a charge against the police for mishandling of evidence.

With the threat, the police moved the car only about two or three meters from the scene, Melgar said. He said the car was finally pulled out between 6 and 7 a.m.

Objector

A fact-finding report of Karapatan-Southern Tagalog said Magsino led those opposing the deployment of two battalions of soldiers in Oriental Mindoro on May 7, 2001.

In July 2002, Magsino and Fortu attended a "peace dialogue" at the provincial capitol after the brutal murder of Edilbero "Choy" Napoles Jr., Bayan Muna coordinator in Calapan.

Magsino, who also chaired Mindoro for Justice and Peace, reportedly left ahead of the others along with her driver and was tailed by soldiers in civilian clothes led by M/Sgt. Rizal Hilario, spokesperson of the Army's 204th Infantry Brigade.

"Hilario pointedly accused Magsino of being an NPA [New People's Army] supporter. The said incident is recorded on the police blotter at Naujan," the Karapatan-ST report said.

The report also said that last November, Magsino found herself at odds with Col. Ferdinand Mesa, current 204th IB commanding officer, over the issue of her assisting the family of a slain NPA member.

"In February this year, Magsino informed her colleagues through text message of renewed death threats to her. A hired killer was reportedly out to assassinate her on Feb. 15," the report said.

It said the officers, troops and paramilitary agents of the 204th IB under Mesa, based in Pinagsabangan I, Naujan, were the most likely perpetrators of the twin killings.

Civilian superiority

"The killings of leftist candidates and personalities identified with Bayan Muna do not only threaten to undermine the coming democratic electoral exercise, but also directly threatens the principle of the superiority of the civilian government over the military, as itself embodied in the Philippine Constitution," Congressman Ocampo said in a statement issued in Manila.

He said most of the killings were perpetrated in Mindoro, where then Army Col. Jovito Palparan launched an "anti-leftist hysteria campaign" against militant groups a couple of years ago.

It was in the province, he said, that the military tested its strength in political matters.

Ocampo also said Palparan was facing a string of investigations on the abduction-killing of two human rights workers last year, Eden Marcelina and Eddie Gumanoy, and the murder of 18 Bayan Muna local members.

He said Bayan Muna was preparing to launch a series of protest actions against the military commanders in Mindoro, and against the supposed policy of the Armed Forces to thwart the participation of leftist candidates in the electoral exercises. *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana in Manila*

Resigned official . . .

From page A1

The NSC deputy director general and officer-in-charge Lt. Gen. Victor Mayo has reportedly offered his resignation in protest against Gonzales' appointment.

Mayo, the highest-ranking NSC official, was named OIC on Jan. 7 after Roilo Golez resigned as presidential adviser on national security to run for congressman in Parañaque.

Gonzales, who chairs the Partido Demokratikong Sosyalista ng Pilipinas (PDSP), confirmed his new appointment but denied that he was ever at odds with Mike Arroyo or any member of the President's campaign team over, among other issues, charges that he allegedly pocketed millions of pesos in funds that the First Gentleman had given him to organize support for Ms Macapagal.

"That's malicious," he said of the allegations of financial impropriety.

"I cannot have disagreements [with the Malacañang campaign team] because the PDSP will have its own campaign in the national and local levels," he said.

Gonzales, who is Ms Macapagal's point man in peace negotiations with the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, also laughed off reports he was unqualified to head the NSC because he was himself a threat to national security."

"In the Mindanao talks, there are always those who are pro and those who are against. You cannot please everybody. But we will see," he said in a telephone interview.

"National security is serious matter, and one should be guided only by what's best for the country," he added.

Gonzales said he never broke away from Ms Macapagal and claimed to have been in regular touch with her since his resignation on Jan. 13.

"She was always thinking of another job for me," he said.

A Palace source said Gonzales was also offered the Department of Interior and Local Government portfolio, to replace Secretary Jose Lina, and the chairmanship of the Housing and Urban Development Corp., vice Secretary Michael Defensor who is juggling the two positions of HUDC chair and campaign spokesperson of Ms Macapagal.

First love

"I wanted the NSC because national security concerns is really my first love. It's a quiet job," he said.

Gonzales claimed to have had a long talk with Mayo a few weeks ago.

"I didn't know he wanted to resign. I cannot work without Gen. Mayo. He is highly respected in the NSC. It was a very cordial meeting and he immediately said he will continue with his functions as deputy director," Gonzales said.

Abraham Purruganan, the officer-in-charge at the office of the presidential adviser on special concerns, said Gonzales' new appointment was never a secret.

Unannounced?

"It was announced," he said in a telephone interview.

But photographers and reporters covering Malacañang said they were never informed of the oath-taking. The Malacañang news website also did not run a press release on Gonzales' new appointment.

Gonzales' appointment was reportedly signed on Feb. 9 and his oath-taking was said to have taken place on Feb. 11.

Ms Macapagal accepted Gonzales' resignation as presidential adviser two days after he tendered his resignation on Jan. 13.

Gonzales said he was resigning because he "wanted to have some flexibility and elbow room" during the campaign period.

No support for Noli

He also said he would continue to support Ms Macapagal but not her running mate Sen. Noli de Castro.

A former political activist, Gonzales also worked at organizing support for former Presidents Aquino and Ramos.

He became Ms Macapagal's point man in the peace process with Muslim rebels.

Last year, Gonzales organized a study group on Charter change which proposed that Ms Macapagal become a transition President until 2007 to give way to a shift to a parliamentary system.

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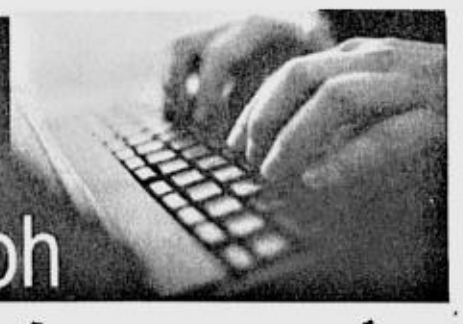

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

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"We have already started working on a plan to reconstruct the breeding industry rather than waiting for the end of the epidemic to do that," National Institute of Veterinary Research director Truong Van Dung said.

But the World Health Organization and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said it could take a while for the disease to be wiped out.

"We believe the outbreak won't be eradicated for several months, probably years," WHO spokesperson Maria Cheng said.

Ways of effectively controlling the outbreak were only now being put in place, said FAO representative in Hanoi, Anton Rychener.

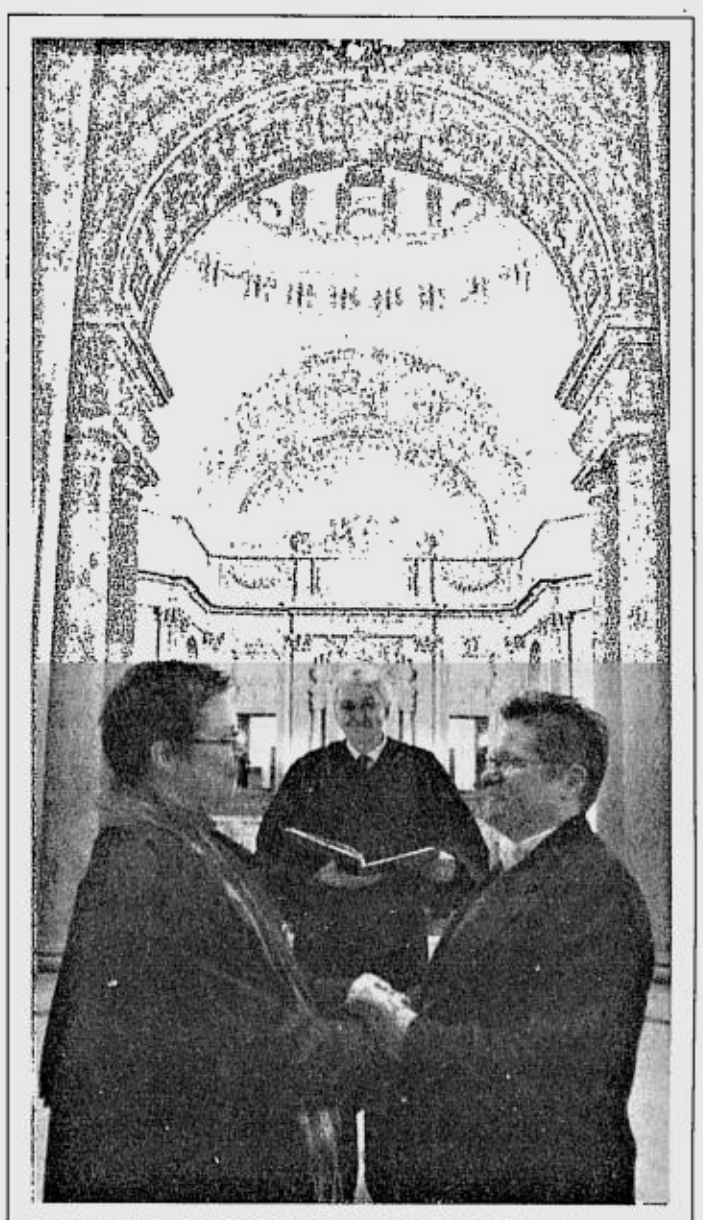
"We are right now only starting the engine to control the outbreak," he said.

"It will be long. I am not sure the government has admitted this reality," he said.

The economic fallout of the outbreak will not be fully understood until a few months' time, Rychener said.

"The damage will be assessed at the next mid-term donors meeting in June. If 35 million chickens have been culled, we are talking about $100 million of direct losses only, not to speak about all the induced losses," he said.

On Friday the World Bank indicated that it was ready to lend Vietnam $10 million to help its poultry industry recover from the crisis and "make sure, should it happen again, that it could have a better response." *AFP*



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"In addition, the urgently required administrative and political structures to run an effective emergency campaign are often not yet in place," it said.

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US: Sanctions have modest effect

WASHINGTON—US sanctions on Iran and Libya, first passed by Congress in 1996, have had only a "modest positive impact" in deterring them from pursuing weapons of mass destruction and supporting terrorism, the US state department said.

In a report to Congress this week, the state department did not offer a recommendation on whether sanctions on either country should be dropped, although the Bush administration has been considering that step for Libya following Tripoli's recent announcement that it was abandoning its weapons of mass destruction program.

However, the report did express greater concern on Iran.

"We remain deeply concerned about Iran's pursuit of weapons of mass destruction and missile delivery systems; its support for terrorism, including for groups violently opposed to Middle East peace; and its poor human rights record," according to a copy of the report obtained by Reuters on Friday.

"With respect to Libya, the picture regarding WMD and terrorism is decidedly different," the state department said.

"The Dec. 19 announcement that the Libyan government had pledged to eliminate weapons of mass destruction... holds promise of a dramatic shift of Libyan policy," it said.

The report was required by Congress to gauge the effectiveness of the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act, which was first passed in 1996 and renewed in 2001.

The law, intended to shut off a potential source of funding the two countries could use to pursue weapons of mass destruction and support terrorism, authorizes US sanctions on foreign companies that make more than $40 million in new investments in Iran's or Libya's oil sectors.

But it also gave the executive branch the option to waive such sanctions if deemed in the national interest. The Clinton administration used that authority in 1998 to waive sanctions on a French-Russian-Malaysian consortium to develop the South Pars gas field in Iran.

In the report, the state department said it was difficult to isolate the effect "any single factor" may have had on the two countries' behavior. *Reuters*

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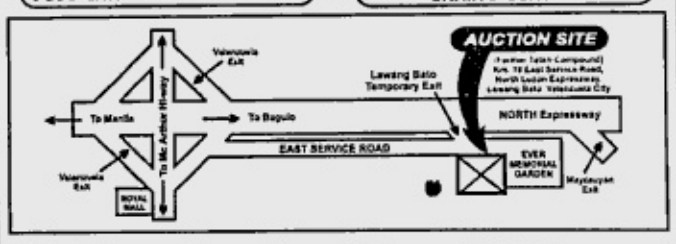

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US: Sanctions have modest effect

WASHINGTON—US sanctions on Iran and Libya, first passed by Congress in 1996, have had only a "modest positive impact" in deterring them from pursuing weapons of mass destruction and supporting terrorism, the US state department said.

In a report to Congress this week, the state department did not offer a recommendation on whether sanctions on either country should be dropped, although the Bush administration has been considering that step for Libya following Tripoli's recent announcement that it was abandoning its weapons of mass destruction program.

However, the report did express greater concern on Iran.

"We remain deeply concerned about Iran's pursuit of weapons of mass destruction and missile delivery systems; its support for terrorism, including for groups violently opposed to Middle East peace; and its poor human rights record," according to a copy of the report obtained by Reuters on Friday.

"With respect to Libya, the picture regarding WMD and terrorism is decidedly different," the state department said.

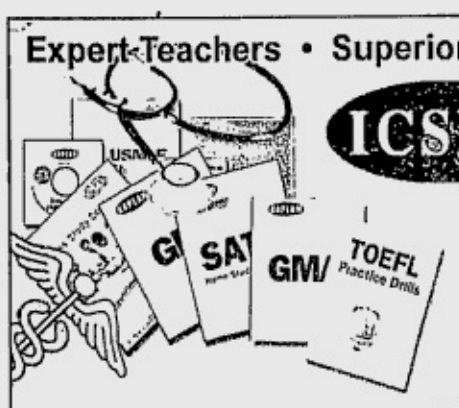
"The Dec. 19 announcement that the Libyan government had pledged to eliminate weapons of mass destruction... holds promise of a dramatic shift of Libyan policy," it said.

The report was required by Congress to gauge the effectiveness of the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act, which was first passed in 1996 and renewed in 2001.

The law, intended to shut off a potential source of funding the two countries could use to pursue weapons of mass destruction and support terrorism, authorizes US sanctions on foreign companies that make more than $40 million in new investments in Iran's or Libya's oil sectors.

But it also gave the executive branch the option to waive such sanctions if deemed in the national interest. The Clinton administration used that authority in 1998 to waive sanctions on a French-Russian-Malaysian consortium to develop the South Pars gas field in Iran.

In the report, the state department said it was difficult to isolate the effect "any single factor" may have had on the two countries' behavior. *Reuters*



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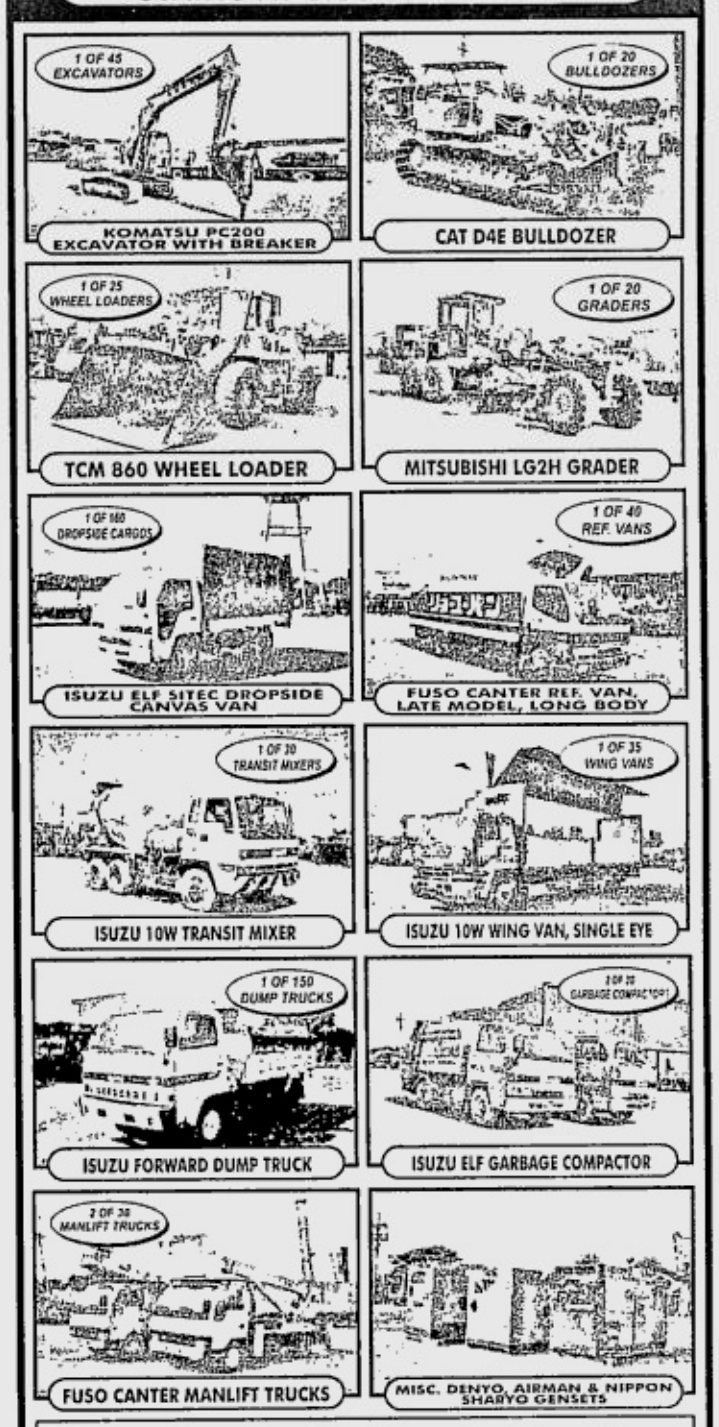

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PHILIPPINE ... The W...

UN seals breakthrough deal on Cyprus unity plan

UNITED NATIONS—Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders on Friday accepted a UN plan for reaching a deal on reunifying Cyprus before May 1 in a crucial breakthrough after three decades of failed diplomacy over the Mediterranean island.

The agreement crowned three grueling days of negotiations in New York in which UN Secretary General Kofi Annan pressed the leaders to demonstrate their will to resolve the impasse on the island, split into ethnic Greek and Turkish enclaves since a 1974 invasion of the north by Turkey.

"Following three days of meetings and consultations, I am pleased to announce that the parties have committed to negotiations in good faith on the basis of my plan," a beaming Annan said at a news conference.

But all sides warned of the potential pitfalls ahead.

"We are at the start of a process. If we can reach a nice agreement that both sides can accept, we will do it. If we can't, we will continue on our path," Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash told Turkish Cypriot television BRT.

"We will not lose our state or our people," said Denktash, a longtime foe of UN reunification efforts who enjoys strong support from Turkish nationalists.

The stakes could not be higher for both Cyprus and Turkey.

Without a settlement, Cyprus would enter the European Union on May 1 as a divided island and be represented only by the internationally recognized Greek Cypriot government, deepening the Turkish Cypriots' isolation and undermining Turkey's own bid to open entry talks with the EU in early 2005.

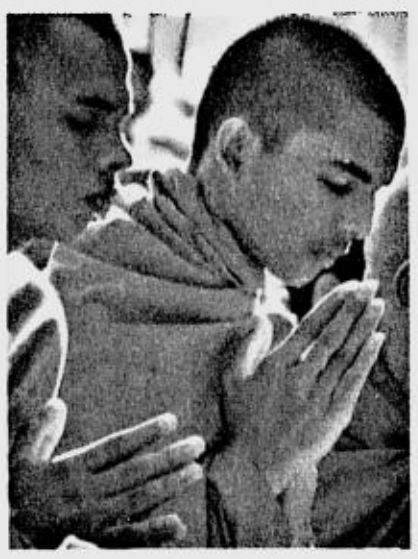
World governments were unanimous in praising the step.

"We're pleased that the parties are seizing this historic opportunity to achieve a just and durable settlement to the long-standing division of Cyprus," US state department spokesperson Richard Boucher said.

"There is no place for barbed wire, mine fields and peacekeeping forces in the European Union," said European Commission President Romano Prodi, predicting the odds for a comprehensive settlement "have never been better."

Frustrated after talks extended into the early morning hours of Friday without an agreement, Annan had asked the Greek Cypriot south and the Turkish Cypriot north, which is recognized only by Turkey, to either sign or reject his road map for the conduct of the final negotiations.

His goal was to persuade Denktash and Greek Cypriot leader Tassos Papadopoulos to commit in advance to submitting the results of those negotiations to separate referendums in the north and south on April 21. *Reuters*



MEDITATE, NOT MAKE LOVE
Buddhist monks meditate during a special meditating program in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Feb. 14 to celebrate Valentine's Day. In opposition to the traditional Valentine's Day, the Buddhist National Congress organized the mass event to teach young Buddhists how to celebrate without the emphasis on romantic love. AP

Besieged Bush releases his military files

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush, trying to stamp out a political firestorm, released all his National Guard files during the Vietnam War on Friday to answer election-year charges from Democrats that he shirked his duty.

The documents offered no new evidence to place Bush in Alabama during the latter part of 1972, the period when Democrats claim he was basically absent without leave.

The White House had earlier this week said it would only hand out relevant documents after Bush said all papers would be released. But the clamor for the documents only increased.

White House officials handed out thick packets containing hundreds of pages of documents retrieved from a National Guard records center in Denver. A group of reporters was given 20 minutes to review dozens of pages detailing Bush's medical exams during his service.

"We received the entire file this afternoon and the president felt everything should be made public," spokesperson Scott McClellan said. "There were some who sought to leave a wrong impression that there was something to hide when there is not."

The White House hoped to put an end for good to accusations from Democrats that the Republican president shirked Vietnam War-era military duties. Republicans are worried about Bush's recently falling job approval ratings.

There was no new evidence, however, to show that Bush spent a lot of time on duty for the National Guard in Alabama during the latter part of 1972, the murky period Democrats have seized on to describe him as Awol.

Bush had transferred to the 187th Tactical Reconnaissance Group, in Montgomery, Alabama, in order to be in the state to help the Senate campaign of Republican Red Blount.

Records released by the White House earlier in the week showed Bush had a dental exam there and was paid for some stints of duty but also had long absences from service.

The new stack included an evaluation form from his Texas unit that said he could not be evaluated because "Lt. Bush has not been observed at this unit during the period of report."

It said Bush "has been performing equivalent training in a non-flying status" in Alabama.

The New York Times said it interviewed 16 retired officers and service personnel who served during that time in the 187th, and none could remember Bush.

The Washington Post, however, quoted John Calhoun, who was an officer with the Alabama Air National Guard at the time, as saying Bush used to sit in his office and read magazines and flight manuals as he performed weekend duty at Dannelly Field in Montgomery in 1972.

Democrats were skeptical. *Reuters*

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ORCHID FESTIVAL
Lisa Hall, an employee of London's Kew Gardens, prepares a display which forms part of the botanic garden's 10th orchid festival titled "Orchids Exposed" in the Princess of Wales conservatory, Feb. 13. A quarter of a million orchids, a flower whose roots the ancient Greeks believed possessed aphrodisiac qualities, will be displayed as part of the exhibit which opens on Valentine's Day.
REUTERS

New attack kills 23 in Iraq

FALLUJAH, Iraq—Twenty-three people were killed Saturday in an attack on an Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC) position in Fallujah, the third attack by insurgents this week against Iraqi forces.

The attackers launched their assault from vehicles in this flashpoint town 50 km west of Baghdad, sparking a fierce exchange of fire, security sources said.

"Ten policemen and ICDC members were killed as well as nine civilians and four of the attackers, including two Lebanese nationals," said Lt. Raed Hussein, a police official in Fallujah, which lies in the so-called Sunni Triangle.

Hussein said a fifth attacker was arrested following the gunbattle, which lasted 15 minutes.

The attack came two days after the head of US Central Command, Gen. John Abizaid, escaped unharmed from a rocket-propelled attack in the same town and it was the third major assault on Iraqi forces this week.

A suicide attack in front of a police station in Iskandariya south of Baghdad killed 55 people Tuesday and a car bomb left another 47 people and scores wounded Wednesday at a Baghdad recruitment center for the New Iraqi Army.

The latest in the bloody spate of attacks came a day after the United Nations deemed Iraq was not ready for early elections and warned against serious dangers of civil war in the strife-torn nation.

The UN findings left the US-led coalition facing the thorny issue of choosing between the country's majority Shiite Muslims and old ruling ruling Sunni elite.

"What everyone agrees on is that elections are terribly important," top UN diplomat Lakhdar Brahimi said Friday after examining the feasibility of polls before a planned June 30 return of sovereignty to the Iraqis by the US-led coalition.

"But the Iraqi street must know that elections is a very complicated process and cannot be achieved unless there are good preparations, so that everyone accepts the results," he added.

The timetable for polls should be well-prepared to avoid "disputes, disagreements and worse," Brahimi stressed.

He refused to say whether a vote could be held before June 30, only hinting it should wait until afterwards. But speaking to BBC radio in London, his spokesperson, Ahmed Fawzi, snuffed out any such prospect.

"Elections will take place when the country is ready, and that will be after the handover of power," he said.

The Shiites and their spiritual leader, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, were still to respond publicly to his hints, ahead of an official report expected within a week to 10 days.

Brahimi said Sistani seemed to accept that there was not enough time for polls in the next three-and-a-half months. *AFP*

GEISHA AND SAKE
A painting of "Geisha With a Sake Cup" by Utagawa Toyokuni is seen at the exhibit titled "Geisha: Beyond the Painted Smile" in Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Mass., Feb. 10. AP

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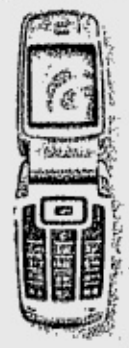

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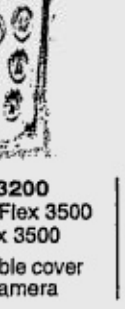

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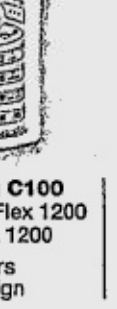

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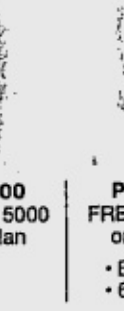

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Ex-Chechen leader killed in Qatar blast

DOHA—Former Chechen President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, a separatist guerrilla leader linked by Moscow to al-Qaida, died on Friday after his car was hit by a blast in the Gulf Arab state of Qatar, police said.

The explosion seriously injured Yandarbiyev, 51, who died later at a hospital in the capital, Doha, and killed two people travelling with him. The cause of the blast was still unclear.

A hospital spokesperson said Yandarbiyev was leaving a mosque in the capital Doha after Friday prayers when the blast occurred. His 13-year-old son survived with extensive burns.

Al Jazeera television showed pools of blood beside the charred remains of a white off-road vehicle and a body covered with sheets being taken away by ambulance.

"We heard a very loud blast and the car was on fire. A young man fell out of the car," said an Indian man at the mosque.

Pro-Moscow Chechens suggested Yandarbiyev's death was linked to internal disputes, while some Chechen rebels blamed Russia.

Yandarbiyev, living in exile in Doha for more than three years, was the first Chechen separatist to be added at Russia's request last year to a UN list of groups and people with suspected ties to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida.

Russia, battling separatist insurgents in predominantly Muslim Chechnya for nearly a decade with the loss of tens of thousands of lives, considered him a leading Islamic extremist.

Chechen President Akhmad Kadyrov condemned Yandarbiyev as the chief ideologue of the separatists and a "terrorist." *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

No early Iraq polls

BAGHDAD—The United Nations on Friday ruled out a demand by Iraq's Shiite Muslim majority for early elections and warned against the serious dangers of civil war in the violence-racked country. Stressing that the world body wanted to be involved in preparing a vote, top UN diplomat Lakhdar Brahimi said a timetable for elections should be well-prepared to avoid "disputes, disagreements and worse. What everyone agrees on is that elections are terribly important," Brahimi told a press conference in Baghdad toward the end of a week-long UN mission to assess the feasibility of early elections. "But the Iraqi street must know that elections is a very complicated process and cannot be achieved unless there are good preparations, so that everyone accepts the results," he said. *AFP*

Michael Jackson trial

SANTA MARIA, California—The judge in Michael Jackson's child molestation case said Friday he wanted him to stand trial by year's end, as die-hard fans rallied in support of the pop legend outside court. But the "King of Pop" did not attend his second hearing in this town near his Neverland Ranch, making the low-key proceedings and a far cry from the circus of his last court date. The 45-year-old singer was excused from the proceedings aimed at tackling procedural issues ahead of Jackson's expected trial on charges of sexually abusing a 13-year-old boy. *AFP*

20 sailors missing

ISTANBUL—More than 20 sailors were missing on Friday after two ships sank off Turkey as a snow blizzard forced the partial closure of the Bosphorus Strait, a maritime safety official said Friday. Rescuers trawling the stormy waters of the Black Sea could find no trace of the 21 crew members of a Cambodian-registered freighter, the Hera, which sank earlier Friday off the northern entrance to the Bosphorus Strait, the official said. *AFP*

3 dead in Afghan violence

KABUL—Three people, including a US soldier, were killed and 15 others wounded as violence erupted in southeastern Afghanistan where Taliban remnants are the most active in the country, officials said Saturday. The US soldier was killed and nine of his comrades were wounded when their vehicle hit a landmine, in a blast that came shortly after an Afghan soldier and a shopkeeper were killed and six others injured in a bomb attack. The latest upsurge in violence was reported in the south and southeast of the country near the Pakistani border, where remnants of the ousted Islamic Taliban regime and their al-Qaida allies are believed to be regrouping. *AFP*

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Islamic bomb

EDITORIAL

THE STARTLING reports about Pakistan's leading role in the black market in nuclear technology may seem worlds away from the presidential race, now on its sixth day. National attention remains focused on the disqualification case against movie actor Fernando Poe Jr., the opposition coalition's standard-bearer. As the Supreme Court prepares to hear oral arguments on the case, opposition candidates have irresponsibly raised the specter of civil unrest.

But the hair-raising confession by Abdul Qadeer Khan, the father of Pakistan's atomic bomb, has spooked the international community. The sudden chill in the air means the ghost of terrorism has returned yet again to haunt us, and this time with a radioactive glow. Muslim extremists are not the only ones out to create the so-called Islamic bomb; as Khan's case proves, mainstream Muslim scientists are helping them, too.

This is not to say that all Pakistani nuclear scientists buy the idea. But Khan's admission that he had sold bomb-making designs and equipment to Libya and Iran (and then later to North Korea) confirms the "open secret" whispered over the last few years, that Pakistan is at the center of the nuclear underground economy.

As the *New York Times* put it: "Khan assembled a far-reaching organization of scientists, engineers and businessmen who operated on murky boundaries between the legal and the illegal, sometimes underground but often in plain view, unencumbered by international agreements that prohibit trafficking in nuclear technology."

The amazing thing is that Pakistan's illicit sale of nuclear technology started in the 1980s, at least a decade and a half before it tested its first atomic bomb. Khan's method was simplicity itself: given an unlimited budget by a Pakistani government traumatized by India's nuclear test in 1974, he bought more equipment in the black market than he needed. The surplus he resold.

According to Pakistani military investigators, Khan was driven by three motives. He wanted to thumb his nose at the Western powers, share nuclear secrets with Muslim countries, and make a pile of money. (The greed explained the North Korean transactions.) It is difficult to believe, however, that Khan could have acted without the support of parts of the Pakistani government and military. According to a Pakistani military official, Khan used government cargo planes to ship the components into Pakistan, and then out of it.

The nuclear proliferation issue is a diplomatic minefield; the Philippines, now a member of the UN Security Council, must tread carefully. While Khan's nuclear smuggling ring must be condemned in unmistakable terms, the response to Pakistan's role, its likely complicity, must be nuanced. Like parts of Mindanao, Pakistan is a battle zone in the international war on terror; cooperation between the two countries remains necessary to combat the al-Qaida terrorist network and its allies. Any diplomatic response is complicated by Khan's status in his country: considered a national hero for his work on Pakistan's nuclear arsenal, he was immediately pardoned by General Pervez Musharraf, the Pakistani president, after his dramatic confession.

The real work for Philippine authorities, however, is not diplomatic, but investigative: to take a close, second look at the available intelligence on terrorist cells and connections in the country, to see if the Philippines—with its porous borders, its Muslim fundamentalist movements, its proximity to Malaysia, where Khan's network had set up a factory to manufacture centrifuge components—played an unwitting role in nuclear smuggling.

Bad timing

FOREIGN COMMENT

THE VISIT by the Prince of Wales to Bam, the city almost obliterated by a devastating earthquake two months ago, is an example of compassion transcending political differences. But the timing is extraordinary. The Prince arrived in Tehran only 10 days before a general election rendered almost meaningless by the malign disqualification of almost 2,000 reformist candidates by the hardline Guardian Council. These intolerant extremists are determined to shore up the rule of obscurantist conservative clerics. Even more symbolically, his arrival coincides with the 25th anniversary of the overthrow of the Shah and the terror inflicted by Ayatollah Khomeini's fanatical supporters.

Whatever the Palace's protestations, this first royal visit to Iran since the Islamist revolution will be seen by millions as endorsing a regime that suppresses the universally accepted norms of democracy.

The Times (London)

Pre-Poe-sterous

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE PROCLAMATION of Fernando Poe Jr. at the Cuneta Astrodome last Tuesday was sickening. It was as if the movie world and its mindless fans had gathered to canonize their idol as the new messiah destined to save the country from eternal damnation. The fact that they did this with tongue in cheek and wild jubilation gave it a circus atmosphere that negated the seriousness of their convention. They obviously did not realize that they were choosing Poe as their candidate, not for dog-catcher, but the highest office in our land.

The tone of the ceremonies was set by Dolphy, who had the good sense years ago to reject suggestions that he run for public office, which he would have won because of his tremendous popularity. His celebrated reply, which raised him in the public esteem, was, "What will I do if I win?" The popular comedian was being properly humble. However, he did not apply this modest recognition of his limitations (as a public officer, not as an actor) to FPJ. Lacking Dolphy's humility, the presumptuous FPJ is no better qualified to be President of the Philippines although he is Da King of Philippine Movies.

Dolphy praised Poe as the handsomest candidate and jokingly confessed he was himself tempted to be gay to win the actor's favor. This elicited roars of laughter from the worshipful audience. Whether he meant to or not, the comedian was suggesting that appearance was the principal credential for election to the presidency of the Philippines. He probably emphasized his colleague's good looks for lack of any substantial qualification to mention as a justification for Poe's elevation to Malacañang.

That proclamation was all hoopla and nothing else. It was a gathering of the entertainment people who went there to be seen, to sing and dance, and to chant their allegiance to their King. The producers and directors, the actors and actresses big and small, the extras and stunt men, the *badings* and *alalays*, were there in full force to show that they were united for FPJ for President. The majority of that adoring crowd was as ignorant of the election issues as it was expert on the story of "Ang Panday."

Expectedly, the Poe platform bombed, to use movie lingo. The ghostwritten manifesto said nothing new and was limited to motherhood statements that could not be claimed as original or exclusive. His stupid staff had no reason to fear that the *magnum opus* would be copied by his rivals. The question that it raised if at all among skeptics was whether FPJ, the high school dropout, understood what he was saying, with all its banalities and sanctimonies. Even some certified high school graduates may not claim similar comprehension.

Watching the revelry that Tuesday, I had the impression that the participants were making a mockery of the democratic process and trashing it contemptuously to give way to their arbitrary decisions. They were simply dismissing the usual qualifications for nomination and election to public office, particularly the highest of them all, and brazenly imposing their will upon the rest of the nation. The will of the rest of the electorate did not matter, it was only the will of the assemblage that would.

The full-page ad that appeared in the papers with the signatures of top figures in the entertainment industry and other supporters of Poe glossed over his lack of educational credentials as if they were irrelevant to the discharge of presidential functions. It emphasized for lack of something more substantial to mention, that he was "honest," "sincere," "diligent," "patriotic," etc. But are these virtues enough to qualify a person to be President of the Philippines? And it also claimed that FPJ would unite the Filipino people, but how and why, it did not explain. In fact, the entertainment people are not that united, there are the more discerning among them who would not support Poe just because he is their King. And how about the rest of the country who do not acknowledge his celluloid majesty?

It is regrettable that some of FPJ's staff, including Estelito Mendoza and Francis Escudero, both lawyers, have warned against another "people power" protest in case the Supreme Court decides the disqualification case against their candidate. Didagen Dilangalen, another lawyer, said Poe would continue with his campaign even if disqualified by the Supreme Court because it is the Court that will have violated the Constitution. Francisco Tatad said they would not accept such a decision.

Gentlemen, don't try to scare the Supreme Court, assuming it can be terrified by your warnings. By your predictions of civil strife in case your candidate is disqualified, you are undermining the justice system and the integrity of the judicial process, even the supremacy of the Constitution that you have sworn to preserve and defend. Cool *lang kayo mga pare*, as Poe himself would say. In this regard, he seems to know more about the rule of law than any of you eggheads.

Be happy

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about a lady who went to see a fortuneteller to ask advice about her love life. The fortuneteller said: "You have two suitors now. I don't know which one you will choose, but, according to my cards, the one who will marry you will be the lucky one, and the one who will not marry you will be... the blessed one!"

* * *

Who is the lucky, and who is blessed in this world? Who is rich and who is poor? In today's Gospel (Lk. 6:17, 20-26) Jesus reveals a new kind of richness and a new kind of poverty in the Beatitudes. He gives hope for those who suffer now, and warning to those who are rich now. He shatters worldly standards, and gives us a new way of looking at ourselves and whatever situation we are in. In the Beatitudes, Jesus gives us a radical "paradigm-shift." If only the world listened to His formula, we would have a more peaceful, loving world.

* * *

For the worldly, the Beatitudes don't make sense. The worldly want riches, laughter and fame now, not in the great beyond. "Enjoy, now!" is their battle cry. "Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow you die, and that's it. Period." Therein lies the difference. For us Christians, death is not a period. It is only a comma. Life is not "*wakasan*," but "*itutuloy*." Are you living an epicurean life so focused on worldly comfort now?

* * *

I have met a lot of people who are very rich, but are so unhappy. Money makes life easy and comfortable for them, but the same money makes them miserable and burdened. On the other hand, I have met a lot of poor and simple people who are so happy and free. So, what's the culprit? Money? Not necessarily. It is the heart. It is precisely how we look at things that determines whether we will be happy or sad. In the Beatitudes, the Lord gives us a new way of looking at things and life itself. Follow the Beatitudes, and you will be freed from the grip of riches or poverty.

* * *

I experienced a touching moment last Jan. 26 on my way to Pangasinan. At first I could not believe my eyes. I saw a child in Camiling, Tarlac doing her homework right on the sidewalk. This was about 8 p.m. I stopped and talked to her. Her name was Loriel, she was 10 years old, and in Grade 2. She was the eldest in a family of six. Her mother was beside her, carrying a 4-month-old baby, selling *balut*. They get to go home at 2 a.m. every night. Loriel said she does her homework because she wants to take a secretarial course when she grows up, so that she can help her parents. My heart was crying as I listened to the poverty and the riches of this 10-year-old child. That night, I never bought so many *balut* in my life, and gave extra cash for Loriel. I plan to pass by again some time and I hope to bring enough money from friends willing to help this child make her wish come true.

* * *

Rich or poor, if you don't feel happy in this life, maybe it is because these are lacking in your life, i.e., something to do, someone to love, something to hope for. If you are rich, and you are doing nothing worthwhile in life, you feel empty. If you have everything, but have no love in your heart, you are lonely. And if there is nothing to look forward to, then life is a dead-end street, hopeless, empty and boring. The choice is yours. Go back to the Beatitudes, and you will be truly happy.

* * *

What is making me happy these days? It is the experience of sleeping in my room with another heart beating beside mine... I'm referring to my dog who sleeps in a chair beside my bed! My dog Toffie, a mini pinscher, has given so much joy to this 50-year-old bachelor. His welcoming presence warms my heart. His unconditional love for his master, and his faithfulness have brought me to many moments of reflection and prayer. His dependence on me has made me realize my dependence on God. Indeed, very little is needed in life to be happy. In fact, too much of anything can make us miserable.

* * *

"What we have done for ourselves dies with us, but what we've done for others remains." The Beatitudes remind us again to look beyond. But the Beatitudes also remind us to be so present in the present. We all must be caught up in the "already" and the "not yet." The Beatitudes are our constant reminder to help us maintain a balance between now and eternity.

* * *

"We earn a living by what we get, but we live a life by what we give to others." Do you feel that you don't have a life? Maybe it is because you are not giving much. The happiest people I've met in this life, rich or poor, are the ones who really know how to give, and who give even when no one knows.

* * *

Got this text message from my friend Gus Uykim: "Life is meaningful if you have plenty of C.A.S.H., i.e. Charity, Affection, Sincerity and Humility." I wish all plenty of CASH!

* * *

A Moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to be happy with who I am and with what I have, what I already have and what I still have. Amen.

The best and the brightest?

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

OVERHEARD at a dinner table conversation: Former President Joseph Estrada was recently gifted with a golf cart at his detention facility in Taytay, Rizal by Lakas campaign manager, Mike Defensor. Unfortunately, Erap noticed that it was a beat-up, second-hand piece of equipment, presumably to help him move around in greater comfort considering his worsening arthritis. (Incidentally, he is actually staying in his nearby farm, located next to Camp Mateo Capinpin.) He remarked: *"Magbibigay lang ng regalo, hindi pa ginawang bago* (Since they were being generous, they could have at least given me a brand new cart)." A day later, two brand new golf carts arrived, still covered in plastic and smelling factory fresh. Of course, we all know these offerings are in the spirit of reconciliation and have nothing to do with the elections.

* * *

Last Wednesday, President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed Minita Chico-Nazario, presiding justice of the Sandiganbayan, to the Supreme Court. I am not a lawyer, and never had any dealings with the judiciary except as a witness in one or two cases. I'm just the average Juan dela Cruz who badly wishes for our country to do better than it has been doing under our present leaders. But somehow, as I read the biodata of Justice Nazario, I couldn't fathom anything that merits her appointment to the high court. What does strike me is her passing grade in the bar exams—78.1 percent. I may be wrong, but this could be the lowest grade of any Supreme Court justice in a bar exam. In the military academy, it is true that sometimes the last in the class—the "goat"—does very well in his career; he can even make star rank ahead of the valedictorian or first captain. But if you look closely at the record, he most likely accomplished something significant to make up for his lousy showing in the Academy.

I hope her appointment has nothing to do with the recent resolution allowing the former President to proceed to the United States for medical treatment. A few years back, I recall that RTC Judge Wenceslao Agnir acquitted Sen. Ping Lacson for complicity in the Kuratong Baleleng rubout case. Shortly after his decision, Agnir was promoted to the Court of Appeals from which he retired. I am not saying that Agnir's promotion was the payoff for his decision on Lacson. Only recently, Judge Ma. Theresa Yadao arrived at a similar decision. I leave it up to the readers to form their own conclusions. Nazario's promotion appears to be one of those situations which are too close for comfort.

The same could be said of President Macapagal's other appointments. Her naming of two new Comelec commissioners, Manuel Barcelona Jr. and Virgilio Garcillano, was likened by presidential candidate Raul Roco to "freeing a crocodile in a poultry [farm], so all the chickens were eventually eaten." That may be typical election bombast, but out of more than 80 million Filipinos, are these the best appointments we can make for such sensitive posts? Whatever happened to the search committee created by Malacañang?

* * *

In a recent State of the Nation (Sona) address before Congress, President Macapagal pledged the establishment of more government services particularly in isolated areas in the countryside. Among her more important commitments was to build schoolhouses in "school-less" barangays. These barangays were identified by the Department of Education in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways, with 40 of the projects located in enemy-infested or controlled areas (mostly NPA) where private building contractors were hesitant to do any kind of infrastructure work. Because of the security problem, these schoolhouse programs were turned over to the Armed Forces of the Philippines, with the AFP assigning the work to Army, Navy and Air Force engineering units. Ten of the projects were eventually assigned to the 355th Air Engineering Wing, headed by Col. Emmanuel Jimenez (PMA Class of 1973) while the remaining 30 schoolhouses were farmed out to Army brigades and the Navy Seabees.

The Air Force Engineering unit, a squadron under Capt. Ronnie Cobar, worked on four schoolhouses, all located in Masbate, in areas accessible only by dirt roads or trails. The sites in Aroroy and Dimasalang were the most difficult to reach with construction materials brought in by carabao carts or handcarried from sourcing points. The schoolhouses were the first to be built in these areas, and for the young people who now benefit from the facilities, they represent the hopes and dreams of a better future, something long denied their fathers and grandfathers. Incidentally, the cost per schoolhouse was only P250,000, as compared to a price tag of almost half a million pesos if undertaken by private contractors.

In the evening of Feb. 4, the engineering unit was attacked by heavily armed CPP-NPA elements resulting in the death of TSgt. Alex Diesta and the wounding of 12 other enlisted personnel. Only the timely arrival of Scout Ranger and Army units prevented heavier casualties being inflicted on the school builders.

It is difficult to understand why communist rebels would feel threatened by basically noncombat construction personnel helping to bring about development and education to remote areas of the country. One can only conclude that the communists thrive best in an environment of ignorance and isolation.

Postscript on Chiong kidnap-murder case

COMMENTARY

Raul J. Palabrica

ONLY a change of mind by the Supreme Court or a presidential pardon stands between six young death convicts and the lethal injection chamber. They will suffer the ultimate penalty for the kidnap, rape and murder of Marijoy and Jacqueline Chiong of Cebu City in 1997. A co-conspirator was sentenced to life imprisonment because he was only 16 years old at the time the crimes were committed.

After seven long years, justice is within sight for the victims of those youthful offenders, some of whom are scions of prominent families in Cebu.

But the rejoicing over justice being done cannot be complete. The body of Jacqueline remains unrecovered up to now. The conscience of the perpetrators hasn't been moved to revealing the place where they hid the gruesome remains of their brutal acts. They continue to profess their innocence in spite of overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

By changing the penalty meted out by the lower court from life imprisonment to death, the tribunal made one of its rare deviations from its long-held policy of giving weight to the findings of trial judges. Since judges have the opportunity to personally examine the evidence presented and hear the testimony of witnesses, their appreciation of the guilt or innocence of crime suspects is usually given high consideration when appealed to a higher court.

Judgment

In the Chiong case, the tribunal ruled that the evidence presented during the hearings justified executing the six criminals instead of letting them rot in jail. Their acts forfeited their right to be part of the human race. Our society would be better off without them.

The judge who rendered the original decision is no longer around to explain why he did not impose the death sentence on the six criminals. He took his own life several months after he promulgated that fateful judgment. Whether or not his ruling had something to do with his suicide remains a big question.

His Honor was right in the thick of the proceedings when the prosecution presented its evidence and the accused refuted the accusations against them. The reasons for such leniency, if it may be described as such, are known only to him. Suffice it to say that the late judge had a reputation for integrity and diligence. He was eccentric in some ways, but he was not linked to any scandal or improper judicial conduct.

The road to justice for the Chiong sisters was long and hard. Their tormentors had money and political influence on their side. Against them, the Chiong family only had middle-class resources and the morale support of non-governmental organizations.

Lest we forget, credit for the meaningful turn of the wheels of justice should be given, first of all, to the men and women of the Philippine National Police who investigated the crimes. They followed the leads that led to the arrests of eight suspects. One of them, Davidson Rusia, later turned state witness. His testimony established the more serious culpability of the rest of his gang.

Prosecution

The government prosecutors who handled the case should likewise be commended for doing a good job. They matched wits and skills against the best lawyers that money could buy.

On top of the professional pressure, the prosecutors had to contend with the "political elements" of the case. The scions of prominent Cebu families implicated in the crimes were related by blood to a political dynasty that has held sway over Cebu for more than six decades, and whose political clout goes beyond the province; its influence can make or break the career of a government employee.

The prosecutors could have taken it easy after public furor over the sensational crimes had died down. Unlike the defense lawyers who stood to earn six- or seven-figure attorney fees for handling the case, the prosecutors only have their meager salary to look forward to at the end of the proceedings. The Chiong case could have been treated as just another case. But it wasn't.

A Cebu-based reporter who covered the trial from Day One recounted to this writer the passion and dedication with which the prosecutors undertook the task of proving the guilt of the accused. In the reporter's words, the only female member of the prosecuting team was like "a tigress who just escaped from her cage." She went toe to toe with the defense lawyers and did not give an inch when she felt the prosecution's arguments stood on solid ground.

Responsibility

Proving a person's guilt in court is not easy. With the constitutional presumption of innocence working in favor of the accused, proof beyond reasonable doubt is needed to sustain a judgment of conviction. That requirement assumes more significance if the penalty imposable for the commission of a crime is death or life imprisonment. And in deciding the case, the judge has to consider only the evidence presented before the court, period.

It's true the presence of a state witness in the Chiong case made the work of the prosecutors less difficult. But, as veteran trial lawyers will attest, it takes a lot of skill and creativity to be able to maintain the credibility of such a witness, connect his testimony to the physical evidence, establish the "blood trail," and show that the rest of the accused deserve to be punished.

After the lower court convicted the accused, the government prosecutors in the case took different career paths. The head of the panel, Primo Miro, is now the deputy ombudsman for the Visayas. The "tigress" of the group, Teresita Galanida, is now a regional trial court judge in Dumaguete City.

Leonardo Carreon was recently promoted metropolitan trial court judge of Argao, Cebu. Ceasar Estrera is holding court in Toledo City as a regional trial judge. Ramon Duyongco resigned from the prosecutor's office to try his hand in the lucrative field of private practice.

Take a bow, fellas. You've earned it.

One for the books

COMMENTARY

Sylvia L. Mayuga

ONE for the books is the battle between Prime Minister Tony Blair and the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) over Britain's involvement in Iraq—a classic example of the balance of forces in a mature democracy.

The publicly owned BBC, while subject to government supervision, has long been a model of historical depth, journalistic objectivity and tempered language. Last May, an explosive quote in a news report on its flagship global radio program triggered a war with the government. BBC reporter Andrew Gilligan quoted an anonymous source as having said that despite intelligence experts' doubts, the British government included a spurious claim—that "Iraq could deploy chemical and biological weapons on 45 minutes notice"—in a vital report.

With this claim, Blair and US Secretary of State Colin Powell campaigned to invade Iraq to rid the world of its weapons of mass destruction. Six months, much destruction and many deaths later, not a single WMD has been found. Last July, Defense Minister Geof Hoon wrote BBC chair Gavyn Davies, asking whether Gilligan's anonymous source happened to be the well-known microbiologist Dr. Kelly, an adviser to his ministry. Davis hewed to a major journalistic canon and refused to reveal the BBC's source to Hoon. Boldly, he added, "The ministry of defense has lost all credibility on this issue. It completely changed its story overnight for spurious reasons, and we intend to draw a line under the matter."

After six weeks of public speculation, the defense ministry announced that the anonymous source had come forward. That same day, beat reporters on Downing Street learned Dr. Kelly's identity. Three days after a bruising parliamentary committee hearing, this gentle scientist walked out of his house, coatless in the rain. His body was found two days later, an apparent suicide.

A senior judge, Lord James Hutton was tasked to investigate the circumstances surrounding a suicide that had provoked thunderous public indignation.

Blair's spokesperson said that the investigation was "not an assault on journalistic sources (or a) vendetta on the BBC (but) a genuine attempt to get at the truth behind one of the most serious allegations against a government." The Hutton Report released in late January concluded that Gilligan's allegations were "unfounded" and that the BBC's "editorial checks and balances were defective." The BBC's board of governors "failed to make a more detailed investigation" of whether Gilligan's story was "properly supported by his notes." Had the BBC done so, said Hutton, it "would probably have discovered that the notes did not support the allegations that the government knew that the 45-minute claim was probably wrong... and should then have questioned whether it was right for the BBC to maintain that it was in the public interest to broadcast that allegation."

In short, had BBC officials checked Gilligan's notes, they would have found the 45-minute claim to be a falsehood. Kelly had apparently forgotten a casual remark tangentially solicited by Gilligan, who quoted it anonymously and tried to hide its source as scandal exploded.

The more important question however was how the lie had gotten into the intelligence dossier at all. Gilligan revealed that Blair's own "spin doctor," information director Alastair Campbell, had "sexed up" the intelligence dossier.

Several non-BBC press reports observed that with "only very minor criticism" of government, the Hutton Report lays most of the blame on the BBC. And so the axe fell on a scapegoat.

On Feb. 2, the BBC announced a first in its history—the resignation of its chair, Gavyn Davies, over Gilligan's story. Accepting that key parts of it were "wrong," Davies issued an apology to government, quickly accepted by Blair. The resignation of BBC director general Greg Dyke followed soon after but so did the replacement of Campbell as Blair's information director.

Akin to Japanese hara kiri, the telecast apology, resignation and replacement were mere surface rituals not necessarily in the service of truth. Said Davis, "You cannot choose your own referee, and the referee's decision is final. There is an honorable tradition in British public life that those charged with authority at the top of an organization should accept responsibility for what happens in that organization."

Director general Dyke meanwhile expressed the BBC's cutting edge stand—"the public in a modern democracy has the right to be made aware" of matters as grave as Dr. Kelly's unwitting revelation. In defense of this second canon of responsible journalism, BBC personnel have rallied in and outside London and bought advertising space in the Independent with their own money, clarifying the stakes to the BBC's global audience.

While the Kelly affair has on the whole enhanced the BBC's global reputation, its independence now hangs in the balance with the impending renewal of its franchise by government. Meanwhile, Blair has deftly ordered another inquiry, this time into the quality of British intelligence. Between equals in a working democracy, his government's political fate hangs in the balance with the BBC's journalistic integrity on the global issue of unjust war. Now that's *delicadeza*.

Sylvia L. Mayuga is a veteran freelance writer on historical and cultural issues.

Being Filipino

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

I WILL not speculate on how his supporters will react if the Supreme Court rules that Fernando Poe Jr. is disqualified from running for president. I don't think anyone knows. But those pushing the Court to disqualify FPJ, by suggesting this is the only way to prevent the looming disaster of an FPJ presidency, should stop. No one really knows how the country will fare under any president. If we care for the nation, we should admonish the Supreme Court to rule on the citizenship issue solely on the basis of the law and the facts, rather than in anticipation of what may follow from its judgment.

If we can no longer trust the Supreme Court to act with wisdom and objectivity, then that would be the end of constitutional rule. That is why it behooves the justices of the Court to always act with impartiality and to ensure that their decisions are credible and explained clearly to the public.

I do not believe FPJ will prod his followers to go berserk and burn the country down if the Supreme Court decision does not go his way. Nothing in his record inclines him toward being a demagogue. His rivals may ascribe to him all kinds of disabilities and vices, but exploiting the anger of followers to avenge a personal injury cannot be one of them. My personal knowledge of how he acted in the face of "Edsa Tres" leads me to believe that, as a matter of principle, he is against inciting people to violence in support of their leaders.

In the early morning of May 1, 2001, as the Edsa Tres demonstrators, all fired up by the incendiary speeches of the previous nights, began to march to Malacañang, I was awakened by a phone call. "Ronnie Poe would like to speak to you," said his long time secretary Susan Tagle. To say it was a totally unexpected phone call would be an understatement. Although we'd met a few times, we did not know each other well. FPJ sounded bothered. He asked if I had been monitoring the march to Mendiola. "Many innocent people are going to get killed," he said. "Somebody has to persuade the marchers to disperse and turn back." He said only Erap could speak to them. It was for him that they were out in the streets.

FPJ said he was calling to ask if I would put Erap on camera so he could speak to his followers. He told me that he had watched "Off the Record" the other night, and that he shared the alarm that my co-host Katrina Legarda and I had expressed over the turn of events at the Edsa Shrine. He said he would try to persuade Erap to stop the march. I asked for assurance that Erap wouldn't use the TV interview to further inflame the passions of his supporters instead. "You have my word," he said. "Get your crew ready, I will call him now at Veterans, and I will get back to you." I told him I would have to clear the interview with my station.

The interview never materialized. An upset FPJ called back a few minutes later to say that Erap had been taken away from his room by government soldiers and that no one from his family knew where he was. I asked him if he was willing instead to go to Mendiola to speak to the crowd. He said that at that point the crowd would listen only to Erap. Perhaps he was right. I still wonder if FPJ would have been able to persuade his friend to stop the *masa* from going to Mendiola. In his public speeches just before his arrest, the former president had blamed the rich for plotting his ouster. In the May 2001 elections, even his wealthy senatorial candidates played the class conflict card to endear themselves to the *masa*.

But it was good to know where FPJ stood on this question. I have shared this vignette with a few friends who have asked if I thought FPJ would not use the same rich vs. poor theme in his campaign for the presidency. I have confidently replied that he would not.

But what the hotheads in his camp might do in the face of an adverse decision is another matter. Where crowds are involved, no one can really foresee how events will unfold. In sociology, to get a sense of where things could go, we talk of conditions of possibility—certain realities that make events possible though not necessarily inevitable. I will mention one example here that may give us a window to the *masa* mind.

More than poverty, it is perceived injustice that provokes the poor to rebel. What we call the underdog mentality is the general feeling that the rich, the powerful and the educated in society conspire at every turn to block one's quest for a better life by resorting to duplicity and technicalities. The *masa* feel they are routinely presumed guilty until they can prove their innocence. Yet, lack of documentation—land titles, ID cards, diplomas, birth and marriage certificates—is precisely the story of their lives. They are voiceless when challenged to prove their entitlements and very existence.

To millions of undocumented, natural-born Filipinos, the citizenship issue against FPJ is thus nothing new. It belongs to the armory of technicalities that the powerful regularly uses against the powerless to deny basic rights to citizens. What is happening here is clear as day to them—their hero is being eliminated on a technicality. It won't be easy to erase this suspicion.

If the Supreme Court decides to declare FPJ an alien, I only hope it does so with irrefutable proof, such as a foreign passport or a voter's list in California or Madrid—anything to show that this man chose to be other than Filipino by an affirmative act rather than by someone else's act of omission. Only then can a massive storm of protest be prevented.

* * *

Comments to randolf@pacific.net.ph

THEY SAID

Above the fray

"That's what my opponents say when they lose an argument."

—Presidential candidate Raul Roco on being described as "arrogant"

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TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

ELECTION 2004

Issues presidential bets must address

VOTERS have yet to know the stand of the presidential candidates, especially those challenging the incumbent, on many issues. This is largely because the candidates have not expounded on their platform of government.

As part of the citizen-based coverage of the national elections, "Talk of the Town" will publish the stand of candidates for national office on a number of issues.

Candidates must demonstrate a strong understanding of the needs of the voting public. Integrity is crucial, but they must have a clear position on critical issues.

They must not be judged by their charisma, good looks and popularity, but by their sincerity, competence and, most importantly, by their ability to address the concerns of the people.

In our succeeding issues, we intend to pin down presidential candidates on their views about these concerns and what they plan to do about them. No motherhood statements, please.

The PDI Research has fleshed out a number of these issues as listed below. Because the problems are complex and pervasive, the new president has to be decisive, creative and be a true leader if he or she has to make a difference. The new president must hit the ground running as the people expect a life better than what they have now.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

ECONOMIC CONCERNS

Jobs

A total of 10.7 million Filipinos were either unemployed or underemployed in July last year. The unemployment rate rose to 12.6 percent and the underemployment rate to 20.7 percent, among the highest in the region. The actual rate of joblessness is bigger than the figure reported by the government because people are not counted as unemployed unless they're looking for work.

Jobs available in the country are usually low paying. A wide gap exists between the mandated minimum wages and the cost of living. The daily minimum wage of P280 in Metro Manila is way below the P560 that a family of six must spend daily to meet basic needs.

Joblessness and low wages are pushing many Filipinos to seek better opportunities abroad, including doctors switching to nursing, draining the country of skilled human resources.

Poverty

More than a third of Filipinos (26.5 million in 2000) are poor. Poverty incidence is more severe in some provinces such as those belonging to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao than in other places. New anti-poverty strategies are needed to lift people from poverty.

Debt and deficit

The consolidated public debt rose to a whopping P5.39 trillion last September, up P424 billion from the same period in 2002. Servicing the debt would cost the government an estimated P542 billion this year, more than half the national budget. Increasingly, the country is borrowing just to pay off its debts. We are thus mortgaging our future. The situation is aggravated by weak revenue collection and huge budget deficits.

Limiting debt payments, raising revenue collection and balancing the budget may become necessary to head off a fiscal crisis.

Globalization

Globalization offers more market opportunities for businessmen and cheaper goods for consumers. But many local companies have closed shop because of the influx of goods from abroad. Liberalization means lowering of tariffs or doing away with quotas. Unbridled liberalization put Philippine companies at a disadvantage because they compete with those getting huge subsidies from their governments.

Corruption and pork barrel

The government lost about $48 billion to corruption over a 20-year period, according to a World Bank study in 2000. Morgan Stanley Research placed the losses at $204 billion between 1965 and 2001.

One source of kickbacks is the pork barrel, money taken from the national budget that funds projects that members of Congress identify. Each congressman is allotted P65 million and each senator, P200 million. There have been calls for the abolition of pork barrel.

Power contracts

To solve the energy crisis in the early 1990s, the government entered into power contracts with independent power producers. There was a catch. Napocor must pay for the electricity whether it was used or not. The value of paid but unused energy has been passed on to consumers as power purchase adjustments. As a result, the country has the most expensive electricity in Asia after Japan.

Food security

The country has had rice shortages due to typhoons, flooding and drought, forcing it to import vast quantities of the staple. But conversion of agricultural lands into either subdivisions or industrial estates to skirt land reform, coupled with unsustainable farming practices like the use of chemicals also contribute to the drop in rice production. Increasing the country's capacity to be self-sufficient in food and providing land to the landless are linked to national security.

Sustainable development

The country has been described as one of the "hottest" of the biodiversity hotspots. Deforestation is causing the destruction of wildlife habitat and the extinction of many species. The country has only three percent of its original vegetation left. The remaining forest cover is estimated to be only 5.4 million hectares. About 5.2 million hectares of our soils are severely eroded. About 80 percent of the country's coral reefs are severely damaged. Fifty of the country's 421 rivers are already dead and many lakes are ecologically endangered. Air pollution in the four largest metropolitan areas is costing the country about P21.5 billion a year. The national waste collection efficiency rate is a poor 40 percent. The need for sustainable development is pressing to help reverse the degradation of the environment.

POLITICAL CONCERNS

Charter change

Proponents of Charter change want a shift to a parliamentary form of government, which they claim has the virtue of flexibility that allows a change in administration. In contrast, the present system locks us into a six-year presidential term. They also want to amend some economic provisions of the 1987 Constitution.

People power

Edsa I ousted the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, while Edsa II deposed President Joseph Estrada in 2001. But Singapore's Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew said people power was no more than a manifestation of civilized "mob rule." While Western media generally welcomed the change in government, they expressed worries over people power being institutionalized as a method of changing rulers because it had left the notion of constitutional democracy in tatters.

The Far Eastern Economic Review said that while Edsa I "became a model for civilian uprisings against dictators around the world," Edsa II "is already being criticized as a 'soft coup' that ejected an elected president in order to return the old, wealthy political and business elite to power."

Erap pardon

Estrada is on trial for plunder, perjury and illegal use of alias. If convicted he faces the death penalty. But a survey in August last year found that 64 percent of Filipinos were in favor of granting amnesty to the former president.

Marcos ill-gotten wealth

The Presidential Commission on Good Government has so far recovered from the Marcoses and their cronies real estate assets and shares of stock amounting to more than P223 billion. Its most spectacular accomplishments include the favorable Supreme Court opinion on the coconut levy, now worth about P150 billion, and the recovery of the $684 million in Marcos Swiss deposits. Other ill-gotten assets of the Marcoses and their cronies have yet to be recovered.

Insurgency and peace talks

The communist insurgency has claimed more than 43,000 lives since 1972, according to a military intelligence report.

The cost of war includes the maimed who can no longer live full productive lives, those uprooted from their communities, and the billions of pesos that the government spends.

During Estrada's total war against the Moro National Liberation Front in 2000, the government was reported to have spent at least P23 million a day. The war displaced more than half a million people. The communist and Moro insurgency continues.

Terrorism

Bombings by Jemaah Islamiyah and kidnappings by the Abu Sayyaf have discouraged investments and tourists and caused the peso and the stock market to deteriorate. The Macapagal administration's participation in the so-called "coalition of the willing" and global war against terrorism has not been met with applause. The participation of US troops in going after the Abu Sayyaf has raised questions about the country's sovereignty.

RP-US ties

For years, relations with the US had been called "special" because of the parity rights and presence of the American bases. In the 1990s, it shifted to "love-hate" after the booting out of the bases. With Philippine participation in the coalition of the willing and global war against terrorism, the relations have gone full circle. The Philippines has been conferred the distinction of being a special non-Nato ally of the US. Not all are impressed. Critics say that it is just "the new-century version of neocolonialism and subservience."

One-China policy

China regards Taiwan as a renegade province and seeks to isolate it diplomatically. The Philippines and other countries that recognize China do not have political and security relations with the Republic of China (Taiwan) although they continue to maintain economic and cultural ties with it. The Philippines has emerged as the top investment site in Southeast Asia for Taiwanese businessmen. The Taiwanese government has also expressed keen interest in forging a bilateral free trade agreement with the Philippines. But the One-China policy has been a damper to the two countries' trade and investment relations.

Death penalty

Since the re-imposition of the death penalty in 1987 for "heinous" crimes, seven have been executed by lethal injection. About 1,500 convicts are now on death row. President Joseph Estrada imposed a moratorium on death penalty, but President Macapagal-Arroyo lifted the moratorium last year when Chinese-Filipino businessmen threatened to pull out their investments due to ineffective laws to penalize kidnappers. The lifting of the moratorium is opposed by the Catholic Church and human rights groups, which claim that death penalty is not a deterrent to heinous crimes.

SC intervention in business contracts

The Davide-led Supreme Court has ruled fearlessly on controversial cases that the past justices avoided touching because they involved influential personalities who had kept their power and connections through successive regimes. While being applauded, it has not been spared from criticisms for its "intervention" that led to the overturning of policy decisions and contracts inked by the executive department.

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Jueteng

Millions earn their livelihood from the illegal numbers game and millions bet on it. Estimates of jueteng collection range from P10 billion to P35 billion annually. Part of the money has reportedly found its way into the pockets of politicians and police and military personnel. There are bills seeking to legalize jueteng.

Population

The country's population is expected to breach the 84-million mark this year. With a growth rate of 2.36 percent every year, 1.6 million to two million babies are added to the population every year. If left unchecked, the population could balloon to 170 million in less than 30 years and put tremendous pressure on the country's resources.

Divorce

In 2001, Senate Bill 0782 and House Bill 0878 were filed to allow "absolute divorce" and grant the separated spouses the right to remarry, providing an alternative to failed marriages. The Catholic Church is strongly against divorce and has tagged the bills as "immoral" and "un-Filipino." But a nationwide survey conducted in 2002 found that support for divorce was growing.

Abortion

At least 300,000 abortions are done in the country every year and the number is increasing, according to Pro-Life Philippines. Studies also showed that the proportion of fertile Filipino women with access to contraceptives dropped from 49.5 percent in 2001 to 48.8 percent in 2002. The failure to provide contraceptives to women will lead to more abortions, often unsafe, and a rise in maternal deaths.

Prostitution

A study made by the International Labor Organization in 1998 showed that the country accounted for the biggest number of prostitutes—between 400,000 and 500,000—in Southeast Asia. It said around one million people were "directly employed" in prostitution. In 2002, a department secretary called for a review of the anti-prostitution provisions of the Revised Penal Code, a move that could pave the way for the legalization of the sex trade. Many of the women engaged in the oldest profession are forced into the job due to lack of opportunities.

Gay rights

Gay rights are recognized in other countries. But in Asia, especially in the Philippines, the stigma against gays and lesbians persists. Several initiatives have been taken in Congress to recognize gay rights, including the right not to be discriminated against at the workplace. Gender advocates say the country's human rights profile will never improve unless the government acknowledges the civil rights of homosexuals.

Education

Some 10.2 million children of school age are out of school. For every 100 students who enter Grade 1 only 67 reach Grade 6. Of these, only 42 will finish high school and only 14 will earn a college degree.

Mastery of subject matter by grade in all curricular areas is found to be low, generally between 30 percent and 50 percent. International comparisons in math and science also show Filipino students performing below their peers in other countries. This is partly because the country is spending a pitifully small amount on education compared with its neighbors. With about 17 million enrolled in public elementary and high schools, the government spends only one-eighth of what Thailand allots for basic education and only about one-seventh of that of Singapore. Lack of classrooms and teachers also bug public schools.

Housing

The housing backlog stands at four million. Besides high incidence of default on housing loans, funding has been a problem for government housing projects. This prompted legislators to enact bills in the past condoning penalties on non-payment of housing loans.

Malnutrition

More than 40 percent of Filipino children under six years old suffer from some form of malnutrition. And 56 percent of deaths among children below five years old are due to malnutrition. Being underweight increases the risk of death and inhibits cognitive development in children, leading to less fit and productive adults.

By the PDI Research

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Bohol gov survives slay try

Agrarian reform execs sacked for ruling in farmers' favor

By Chito A. Fuentes and Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado cheated death on Friday the 13th when at least three gunmen failed to hit their target in an assassination attempt at past noon.

The governor and all four of his staff aboard Aumentado's green Mitsubishi Pajero van with plate no. SEY-969 were unhurt.

Aumentado, 63, was seated in front beside his driver and was on his way home after a hectic schedule when the suspects made their move at corner CPG Avenue and J. S. Torralba Street, about 100 meters from the entrance of the provincial capitol.

"At first, I thought it was a firecracker explosion," Insp. Primitivo Caga, 51, Aumentado's chief security officer, told the INQUIRER.

When he turned his head, Caga said he saw two men, one of them wearing a native *buri* hat, firing at them from behind. The armed men were on foot and positioned at the sidewalk.

"Instinctively, I pulled (Aumentado) down while standing up to shield him," Caga added.

Aumentado said he was "saved by God" because he ordered the driver to change their direction by turning left at the J.S. Torralba Street because he wanted to buy a newspaper at the Ideal Drug Store in Torralba Market.

By Franklin A. Caliguid
PDI Mindanao Bureau

SURIGAO CITY—For favoring the distribution to farmers of a contested land owned by alleged political allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo, two ranking agrarian reform officials had been relieved of their duties.

Susan Borja and Jamar Gavino, both legal officers at the provincial office of the Department of Agrarian Reform in Surigao del Norte, decried their relief saying it undermined the rights of farmer-beneficiaries under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

"We did nothing wrong. (We only wanted) to serve the poor and the farmers," Borja told the INQUIRER.

Borja and Gavino supported the distribution of the 29 hectares of land owned by the Fanny Cortes and Innocencio Development Corp. in Barangay Luna here after the Committee on Agrarian Reform of the Office of the President, which is headed by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, upheld the legality of the coverage.

In the resolution dated Jan 21, Romulo said the motion filed by Villaraza & Angcangco law firm, the company's counsel, was without merit.

The law firm has earlier sought the reversal of an earlier resolution sustaining the coverage.

It argued that the land could no longer be distributed to the farmers because they have been stripped of their rights under a land conversion order granted by DAR in 1977.

"Save for allegation that the subject land is outside the CARP coverage ... they constitute a rehash of same arguments, which the 28 August 2003 decision found without merit," Romulo wrote.

Borja said their stand on the distribution of the disputed land was entirely based on Romulo's decision.

When he learned about their moves, provincial agrarian reform officer Pedro Condolan immediately axed them for alleged loss of trust and confidence, Borja said.

"Condolan is serving the interest of the landed and his political patrons," Borja said.

Gavino even tagged Sen. Robert Barbers and Mayor Alfonso Cassura of orchestrating their removal.

Gavino said giving out the lands to farmers would hurt the interests of the politicians.

Felix Abugho, regional agrarian director-CARAGA, however, said Borja and Gavino's termination were justified within the Civil Service Law. He said their appointments had expired.

5 'lumad' children die in measles outbreak

BAGANGA, Davao Oriental—At least five Mandaya children died of measles when the deadly but preventable disease swept across 10 hinterland villages here until last month, health officials said on Friday.

At least 166 others have been inflicted with the disease.

The health department has recently conducted a nationwide anti-measles drive.

Initially, the provincial health office refused to confirm that there was an outbreak.

Dr. Resuldo Malintad had asked the INQUIRER "not to publish it" but later admitted there was indeed an outbreak.

"Yes it is true there was a measles outbreak in Baganga town. At least five people, most of them young children, have been killed, but the outbreak was already contained," Malintad said on Friday.

He said the outbreak started in December and lasted until last month.

The spread of the disease alarmed provincial officials, causing them to declare a state of calamity.

Malintad said the declaration had been lifted "because right now there is no longer an outbreak."

"It was already contained," he said.

He said health personnel were sent to the affected villages and neighboring areas to conduct treatment and prevention steps.

Malintad said antibiotics were distributed to affected children while those in neighboring areas were immunized.

He declined to identify the affected villages but the Philippine National Red Cross said barangays Mahan-ub, Poblacion, Binondo, Kinablangan, Lukod, Kampawan and Siaoquigue were the worst hit villages.

Malintad admitted that the lack of hospital here aggravated the measles outbreak.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said certain religious beliefs of *lumad* groups could hinder efforts of the department to achieve its goal of vaccinating some 18 million children.

But Dayrit said they have set up mechanisms to convince the *lumad* to have their children vaccinated as part of the Department of Health's "Ligtas-Tigdas" campaign.

"We have to have extra efforts to convince them (*lumad* people)," he said.

He said health personnel did not encounter problems in penetrating conflict-stricken areas in Central and Western Mindanao.

"To penetrate these areas is not really a big thing," he said.

Dayrit led health officials in Davao City on Monday last week for the immunization of children in Bankerohan in Barangay 5-A.

The door-to-door vaccination, which started on Feb. 2 and will end on Feb. 29, is part of the DOH's goal to eradicate the incidence of measles by 2008.

Dr. Nicholas Alipui, Unicef representative to the Philippines, said the thousands of volunteers who offered to help impressed him. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Thank you, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

With your issuance of Executive Order No. 278, Series of 2004, Prescribing Guidelines for Project Loan Negotiations and Packaging of Government Foreign-assisted Infrastructure Projects, your Excellency has shown your recognition of the capabilities of the Filipino construction professionals to be at par with the rest of the world. This singular act has made it clear that Filipinos are very well able to prepare feasibility studies, architectural and engineering design, provide construction project management and physical construction services not only in the overseas construction market but more so in our very own homeland, the Philippines. **Kayo lang po ang kumilala sa kakayahan ng Pilipino.**

Since time immemorial, no Filipino President has ever taken such a bold step so as to put the Filipino professional on equal footing to compete with foreigners in our own land, except you, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. **Ikaw lang ang Pangulo ng Pilipinas na nanindigan para sa Pilipino.**

The Philippine Construction Industry, comprised of more than 200,000 licensed engineering professionals and more than 8,000 construction contractors, together with our 1.7 million construction workforce, fully recognizes the potential increase of local employment that the level playing field shall bring about and its impact upon our economy. **Maraming salamat po sa magandang kinabukasan nating lahat.**

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President
Philippine Constructors Association

NOEMI SALUDO
President
Philippine Chamber of Commerce & Industry

ENGR. RODOLFO N. FERRER
President
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ENGR. GREGORIO Y. GUEVARA
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Bohol gov survives slay try

Agrarian reform execs sacked for ruling in farmers' favor

By Chito A. Fuentes and Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado cheated death on Friday the 13th when at least three gunmen failed to hit their target in an assassination attempt at past noon.

The governor and all four of his staff aboard Aumentado's green Mitsubishi Pajero van with plate no. SEY-969 were unhurt.

Aumentado, 63, was seated in front beside his driver and was on his way home after a hectic schedule when the suspects made their move at corner CPG Avenue and J. S. Torralba Street, about 100 meters from the entrance of the provincial capitol.

"At first, I thought it was a firecracker explosion," Insp. Primitivo Caga, 51, Aumentado's chief security officer, told the INQUIRER.

When he turned his head, Caga said he saw two men, one of them wearing a native *buri* hat, firing at them from behind. The armed men were on foot and positioned at the sidewalk.

"Instinctively, I pulled (Aumentado) down while standing up to shield him," Caga added.

Aumentado said he was "saved by God" because he ordered the driver to change their direction by turning left at the J.S. Torralba Street because he wanted to buy a newspaper at the Ideal Drug Store in Torralba Market.

By Franklin A. Caliguid
PDI Mindanao Bureau

SURIGAO CITY—For favoring the distribution to farmers of a contested land owned by alleged political allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo, two ranking agrarian reform officials had been relieved of their duties.

Susan Borja and Jamar Gavino, both legal officers at the provincial office of the Department of Agrarian Reform in Surigao del Norte, decried their relief saying it undermined the rights of farmer-beneficiaries under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

"We did nothing wrong. (We only wanted) to serve the poor and the farmers," Borja told the INQUIRER.

Borja and Gavino supported the distribution of the 29 hectares of land owned by the Fanny Cortes and Innocencio Development Corp. in Barangay Luna here after the Committee on Agrarian Reform of the Office of the President, which is headed by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, upheld the legality of the coverage.

In the resolution dated Jan 21, Romulo said the motion filed by Villaraza & Angcangco law firm, the company's counsel, was without merit.

The law firm has earlier sought the reversal of an earlier resolution sustaining the coverage.

It argued that the land could no longer be distributed to the farmers because they have been stripped of their rights under a land conversion order granted by DAR in 1977.

"Save for allegation that the subject land is outside the CARP coverage ... they constitute a rehash of same arguments, which the 28 August 2003 decision found without merit," Romulo wrote.

Borja said their stand on the distribution of the disputed land was entirely based on Romulo's decision.

When he learned about their moves, provincial agrarian reform officer Pedro Condolan immediately axed them for alleged loss of trust and confidence, Borja said.

"Condolan is serving the interest of the landed and his political patrons," Borja said.

Gavino even tagged Sen. Robert Barbers and Mayor Alfonso Cassura of orchestrating their removal.

Gavino said giving out the lands to farmers would hurt the interests of the politicians.

Felix Abugho, regional agrarian director-CARAGA, however, said Borja and Gavino's termination were justified within the Civil Service Law. He said their appointments had expired.

5 'lumad' children die in measles outbreak

BAGANGA, Davao Oriental—At least five Mandaya children died of measles when the deadly but preventable disease swept across 10 hinterland villages here until last month, health officials said on Friday.

At least 166 others have been inflicted with the disease.

The health department has recently conducted a nationwide anti-measles drive.

Initially, the provincial health office refused to confirm that there was an outbreak.

Dr. Resuldo Malintad had asked the INQUIRER "not to publish it" but later admitted there was indeed an outbreak.

"Yes it is true there was a measles outbreak in Baganga town. At least five people, most of them young children, have been killed, but the outbreak was already contained," Malintad said on Friday.

He said the outbreak started in December and lasted until last month.

The spread of the disease alarmed provincial officials, causing them to declare a state of calamity.

Malintad said the declaration had been lifted "because right now there is no longer an outbreak."

"It was already contained," he said.

He said health personnel were sent to the affected villages and neighboring areas to conduct treatment and prevention steps.

Malintad said antibiotics were distributed to affected children while those in neighboring areas were immunized.

He declined to identify the affected villages but the Philippine National Red Cross said barangays Mahan-ub, Poblacion, Binondo, Kinablangan, Lukod, Kampawan and Siaoquigue were the worst hit villages.

Malintad admitted that the lack of hospital here aggravated the measles outbreak.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said certain religious beliefs of *lumad* groups could hinder efforts of the department to achieve its goal of vaccinating some 18 million children.

But Dayrit said they have set up mechanisms to convince the *lumad* to have their children vaccinated as part of the Department of Health's "Ligtas-Tigdas" campaign.

"We have to have extra efforts to convince them (*lumad* people)," he said.

He said health personnel did not encounter problems in penetrating conflict-stricken areas in Central and Western Mindanao.

"To penetrate these areas is not really a big thing," he said.

Dayrit led health officials in Davao City on Monday last week for the immunization of children in Bankerohan in Barangay 5-A.

The door-to-door vaccination, which started on Feb. 2 and will end on Feb. 29, is part of the DOH's goal to eradicate the incidence of measles by 2008.

Dr. Nicholas Alipui, Unicef representative to the Philippines, said the thousands of volunteers who offered to help impressed him. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Thank you, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

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Paint good RP image, Chinoys urged

BAGUIO CITY—Chinese-Filipinos of Baguio are asking their children to write good stories about the Philippines to their relatives in China to start an influx of Chinese tourists to the country.

Chinese journalists on Monday met with prominent Chinese-Filipino residents here to establish an informal information exchange through the Internet to relay the country's peace and order situation to China.

Judy Zhou, the Beijing editor of China's nationally circulated magazine, "Civilization," said China's growing middle class has identified the country as a potential tourist destination.

But China's portrait of the Philippines today can only be summed up by its reputation as Asia's "kidnapping capital," by its crime rate and street violence, and by the Ifugao rice terraces, Zhou said.

Dr. Charles Cheng, a Baguio civic leader, said the "Civilization" crew went to the country for an article on the Philippines' attraction to China's rich residents.

Vicente Yam, the Chinese journalists' interpreter, said the "Civilization" crew members were also impressed by the fact that the Philippines has embraced Asian pop stars, given the popularity here of the Taiwanese boy band F4, and the country's distribution of Asian movies.

"Before, the country embraced Hollywood, but (after the hype associated with the F4 stars), Asians are starting to become more popular to Filipinos," Yam said.

But convincing the Chinese to spend two to three days in the country, while China endures the end of winter, now rests on Chinese Filipinos with access to the Internet, Cheng said.

"We are scaring them away. (Many Chinese tourists) have been flying into the Ilocos in the last few years, but only a few tell good stories about the country because our own (news stories) portray a scary country," he said.

Peter Ng, one of Baguio's successful hoteliers, said even 1 percent of the Chinese middle class, who have started touring Asia in 2003, would have been sufficient to accelerate domestic tourism.

Lei Gong Jun, "Civilization" executive editor, said their country's urban communities have been benefiting from a more liberal economy, which is dictated by socialist politics.

The entry of investments and the expansion of high technology industrialization there have helped create a middle class community, which could now afford to spend for annual trips abroad.

But Lei cautioned the Philippines against expecting too much from China's "new tourists."

"Our government has been very careful about encouraging the momentum to industrialization because it is worried that the disparity between the rich and the poor will grow," he said through an interpreter.

Instead, China has stopped the expansion of new cities, and has encouraged investments to go to its provinces, Lei said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

GERALD FORD TICKE/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

BALIKATAN IN PALAWAN
A generator set for floodlights sit in standby as a vehicle for communications is lowered at the Puerto Princesa pier. The equipment will be used in the upcoming Balikatan exercises in the province.

FPJ does an Erap in GMA country

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—Actor Fernando Poe Jr. did an Erap, at least in his handle of the language.

Toward the end of a rally here on Thursday night, the Koalisyong ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino presidential candidate introduced his party's senatorial bet Salvador Escudero as the "expertise in agriculture."

It was the only instance he spoke in English during his entire 30-minute speech at the rally.

Was it a slip, he merely feigned his weak handle of English or making a reprise of the "carabao English" that his bosom buddy, ousted President Joseph Estrada, popularized.

Not available

The actor left the matter unanswered. Encircled by a coterie of security men and rushing to the next local schedule, Poe was not available for an interview with reporters.

Escudero, the last speaker in the rally, appeared not a bit flustered by the wrong choice of word. Local opposition leaders did not make a fuss, with one saying that Poe probably meant the former agriculture chief had the expertise in the field.

Poe earlier told the audience that agriculture was his priority agenda. He related that when asked by a foreigner what the main problems of the Filipinos were, he said he replied: "*Almusal* (breakfast), *tanghalian* (lunch), *hapunan* (dinner)."

Poverty

In the rally organized by Pampanga Rep. Francis Nepomuceno, Poe told his audience that he had seen the "real face of poverty" during location shoots for his almost 100 movies. Hearing this, the crowd gave him loud applauses.

The actor, also known by his initials FPJ or "Da King," professed connections in Pampanga, saying he had sealed ties with many friends during the 20 movies he made in the province, including his debut film "Anak ni Palaris."

Some men in the crowd screamed "Panday, Panday," referring to his popular film character.

He drew the loudest applause when he said, "*Hindi muna ako titira dahil hindi nila ako tinitira ngayong gabi* (I would not make any criticism in the meantime because they spared me of that tonight)," referring to the tirades the Macapagal administration had been hurling his way.

Erap support

But KNP senatorial candidate Jinggoy Estrada used the occasion to drumbeat support for his father who is on trial for a plunder case.

He said his father "believes in FPJ."

The younger Estrada also made a dig on media reports that the KNP's sortie in Pampanga was "*nilangaw* (poorly received)."

"The people really filled the streets. And with your number, I believe FPJ will win," he said. Policemen and security guards at the nearby Nepo Mall estimated the crowd at more than 2,000.

From among the KNP senatorial candidates, it was former Sen. Francisco Tatad who appealed to the crowd's "conscience and common sense" not to give Ms Macapagal six more years.

While Tatad described Ms Macapagal as behind the seizure of political power from Estrada, he called the actor a "loyal comrade."

In the rally, Poe did not tell the crowd how he planned to deal with Estrada or his plunder case. In an interview before starting the two-city, three-town motorcade on Thursday, he said Estrada "only wanted a fair trial."

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Buliok revisited: Smiles amid uncertainty

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Pikit, North Cotabato

"WE will bomb them out to kingdom come!" That was the warning Army Gen. Cardozo Luna, then the 602nd Infantry Brigade commander, gave when the government launched a war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) on Feb. 11 last year.

An OV-10 attack plane dropped the first four bombs at around 6:30 a.m. at the Islamic Center in Barangay Buliok in Pikit, North Cotabato. Inside the Islamic Center, a number of people were attending a prayer session in time for the celebration of the Eid'ul Adha, the Day of Sacrifice.

In Barangay Rajamuda, battalions of government soldiers already took positions, ready for ground attacks. Their presence in the former MILF camp scared residents so much that they decided to flee from the target villages to SK Pendatun town on board outrigger boats.

Fr. Roberto Layson said the people had been alerted of the war as early as Feb. 8 when a military build-up began. Military trucks kept coming in that day as hundreds of families made their way to the town center. Officers of 6th Infantry Division refused to issue statements on the war preparations.

Layson, coordinator of the Pikit Interreligious Dialogue, said the residents did not really expect war to break out again. Their suspicions heightened as Army soldiers arrived in batches.

"On February 11, the airplanes dropped bombs and the rest was history. We found 43,000 people at the evacuation centers," Layson said.

Three years after deposed President Joseph Estrada declared war on the MILF, he added, the people had to leave their homes again and seek shelter at the evacuation centers last year.

Unjustified

Layson said the military offensives in the Buliok complex was never justified because everything could have been discussed by the government and the MILF peace panels.

"If the military was just running after the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang, that war was so big. Another is, it could have been prevented by the May 6 joint communique that says they [government and the MILF] will join forces in running after criminals," the priest said.

The war displaced almost 350,000 people all over Mindanao.

Layson said Pikit residents had held the government more accountable for what happened to them than the rebels because as a state, it had the moral responsibility to prevent an escalation of violence for the sake of the people, especially the women and children.

At noon of Feb. 11, a few hours after ground and aerial attacks started, President Macapagal-Arroyo declared a ceasefire. The order, however, was simply overpowered by an instruction from then Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes to continue the military assault later that day.

Ceasefire too late

Layson had another view of the President's ceasefire order: It was too late.

"How can you impose a ceasefire in the midst of a shooting war. Even with the ceasefire, government and MILF soldiers fought each other in the field," he said.

The following days, not one resident of at least 10 Pikit villages could be seen in their homes. They were packed in the evacuation centers or sought refuge in the homes of relatives in the nearby town of Pagagawan in Maguindanao.

On Feb. 17, Gen. Generoso Senga, 6th ID chief, said the war would be over after the military captured what they called the mansion of then MILF chief Salamat Hashim. But months after the war was launched, sporadic fighting continued, hampering the rehabilitation efforts of both government and non-government organizations. The people were afraid to go back because of the military's presence in their areas.

Evacuation deaths

Both the government and the MILF could not give the exact number of casualties they suffered. But while they fought in the fields, the evacuees had their own war in the evacuation centers. At least 80 people, 56 of them children, died of measles, respiratory disorders, diarrhea and other diseases.

Dr. Raul Ting, a volunteer of the private group Tabang Mindanao, said the children in the evacuation centers in Pikit and in neighboring Maguindanao province were the most vulnerable because they were malnourished.

THE CHILDREN of Pikit after the February 2003 war. JEFFREY TUPAS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

"What can you get from not eating at all? Or if they have something to eat, what can dried fish, noodles or salt do to the frail body of a child?" he said.

Such was the case of 4-year-old Samir Amidin and the other children.

In a recent visit to Barangay Barongis in Pikit, this writer met Samir, who was then having tantrums inside a day care center.

Still holding a pack of rice wrapped in a banana leaf, Samir would not stop crying. His mother Emraida gave him a dash of salt as viand. Only then was the boy appeased.

Emraida said Samir and her other children had learned life the hard way while they were in the evacuation center. This was why Samir had learned to eat with salt.

"Tingnan mo, huminto na siya sa pag-iyak noong mabigyan ko ng asin. Tama na sa kanya yon. Nasanay kasi sa evacuation center. (Look at him, he stopped crying when I gave him salt. That's all he wanted. He was used to eat with it in the evacuation center)," she said.

Samir does not even ask for water, his mother said. *"Sanay na din kasi na walang tubig doon* (He is also used to it because there was no water in the center)."

After eating his lunch, Samir joined the other children and played with them.

"The children are already laughing in Pikit. In fact, when you go to these areas, you can see that they are a little happier now than they were before. They would wave at you and smile," Layson said.

"Now they go to school together. They would play among themselves and they can now afford to laugh. This is very different from the previous year," he added.

Despite their smiles, Dr. Ernest Ryan Guevara, manager of the Balik Kalipay program in Pikit, said the children still felt they were not safe. "We think it was not the same as when they were still in the evacuation centers. There is still a sense of danger, a sense of uncertainty," he said.

Balik Kalipay is one of the groups helping to provide the needs of the evacuees.

"Our approach now is to utilize the communities. We think of the coming elections and the instability delays us in doing that. At the same time, we foresee events in the next couple of months that may be out of our control. What we would like to do is to maintain a continued presence," he said.

Doing so, without necessarily giving them assistance, makes the people feel that they are important, Guevara said. "Asking them how they are, what they intend to do ... those add up to some level of security, although they do not erase some fear," the doctor said.

Liberation?

But for Layson, many indications show that the people have learned to overcome the horror of last year's war. The children, he said, were no longer afraid of the military that they would often see in their villages.

The adults, he added, had learned to overcome their anger at the military. In fact, he said, some of the men have been playing basketball games with the Marines, and on the scoreboard was written "Marines vs MILF."

Life, somehow, is getting back to normal. People have started planting corn. Some have gone fishing. This, Layson said, was proof that the people were helping themselves.

It was like liberation, the priest said.

"Liberation from war, from violence, from oppressive situation in the evacuation center, and there is a little atmosphere of peace where the people can plant, children can go to school, parents can go to the mosques to study, and fishermen to fish," he said.

Dancing and winning for the Sto. Niño

By Edwin O. Fernandez
Midsayap, North Cotabato

THE MAKERS of national champions in street dancing competitions once again began nurturing future champions in a festival honoring the Señor Sto. Niño in Midsayap town in North Cotabato.

Last month, 150 people from 21 groups began competing for the right to represent Central Mindanao in the national street dancing contest sponsored by the Department of Tourism. The occasion was the fiesta celebration of Midsayap (pop.: 150,000), which held the Halad sa Señor Sto. Niño Festival.

"We've made it twice in a row, we hope to do it again," Enedina Cacabelos, chair of the Halad Festival 2004, said, referring to the two grand prizes won by the Halad sa Sto, Niño-Midsayap through its representative, the Alamada National High School.

The Halad Sto. Niño-Midsayap won the DOT's Aliwan Fiesta national street dancing contest in May last year, bringing home the P1-million top prize. It also bagged the P1-million grand champion award during the Pamaskong Aliwan, also a DOT sponsored festival, held in Manila.

2 in a row

"When it rains, it pours," Cacabelos said of the second national award. "That's two in a row in 2003."

This time, it's the Dado Alamada National High School's "Kadagayaan tribe" that won the P70,000 prize from the Halad and the DOT regional office. It also earned the right to represent Halad-Midsayap in all national contests this year.

The Halad festival, which was started in 1988, actually had three national champions. In 1997, the Eramis clan of Midsayap that also represented the Halad sa Sto. Niño-Midsayap, won first prize in the national contest.

Recognized by the DOT and included in its tourism calendar of activities for the past six years, the festival, the region's only colorful and well-participated street dancing competition, has been part of Midsayapeños' fiesta celebration.

"Midsayap has been placed on the country's map of tourist destinations," Cacabelos said. Foreigners were seen enjoying the street dancing contest, she said.

Tradition

Fr. Eduardo Santoyo, OMI, Sto. Niño parish priest, said the festival was now a tradition and showed the people's way of merrymaking and thanksgiving.

Santoyo lauded the residents' active participation in the daily novenas, Masses, prayers and other parish activities.

Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, former president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said Midsayap had become popular after its delegation to the national contest won two successive national awards.

"Every year, the number of participants continues to increase and the involvement of groups and institutions is also increasing," Cacabelos said. "It's a tradition that people celebrate with high spirits, a tradition planted by the pioneers of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate here."

Party-list Rep. Edgar Valdez (Apec), who is a Sto. Niño devotee, provided the resources for the success of the festival.

React-Midland

Cacabelos recalled that the idea of holding the Halad cropped up in 1988 among civic-minded individuals belonging to the React-Midland Group. Anthony Dequiña then headed the group.

"Our personal devotion to our patron saint, the Señor Sto. Niño, gave us the inspiration to come up with the Halad festival," Cacabelos said. "And we feel fulfilled and happy about what we have started."

When engineer Mario Cacabelos became chief of the React-Midland Group, the first Halad festival was staged. "It has been an annual activity for our patronal fiesta as if this is one thing the Midsayapeños could not do without," she said.

While the festival, attended by about 30,000 spectators, could have been an opportune time for politicians to take center stage, no politician came forward to take the opportunity to court the electorate.

"But our local political leaders have given all out support, especially Representative Valdez, he being a devotee," Cacabelos said.

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Ping steals show from GMA at PMA homecoming

From page A1

policy statement yet."

But the keynote speaker, Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita, hailed the guest of honor.

"The prestige you brought the PMA cannot be overemphasized. You honor us with your presence," Ermita told Ms Macapagal and other honorary alumni, among them her husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo of Class '74.

Lacson and Arroyo chose to ignore each other.

Arroyo dismissed Lacson's revival of the "Jose Pidal" money-laundering issue.

"No one will believe him anymore," said the President's husband. "His ratings are going down. He has no evidence."

Adan's omission

During the introduction of guests led by the President and government officials, PMA superintendent Adan failed to acknowledge Lacson's presence.

Some alumni felt bad about the "breach of protocol."

"That's very basic. [Lacson] is a senator of the republic and his presence should have been acknowledged," said retired Col. Mariano Santiago.

But Lacson said he was not bothered by the omission.

"It doesn't matter to me. I don't care, I don't care a bit. Or maybe it was an honest omission," he said.

Asked about his failure to acknowledge Lacson, Adan said it was only later that he realized that the senator was among the alumni on the parade grounds.

He said he failed to correct the slight because there was "no more opportunity."

Wycoco

Lacson also shook hands with an old enemy, National Bureau of Investigation chief Reynaldo Wycoco (Class '68).

Wycoco greeted Lacson with a smile and "Good luck." Lacson responded with "Happy Valentine's Day."

At one time, Lacson and Wycoco were rivals for the post of PNP chief. Later, the NBI would pin Lacson's closest aides to the Dacer-Corbito kidnap and murder case.

"It's OK, it was done in the spirit of camaraderie and cavalier-ship," Lacson said later of his meeting with Wycoco.

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

ADMIRING supporter of Sen. Ping Lacson takes a shot of him on the parade grounds of Fort del Pilar during the PMA alumni homecoming.

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

THOUGH not a PMA alumna, the President holds her own as an honorary member of PMA Class '78. Former President Fidel Ramos and Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita flank her.

After the parade, Lacson, dapper in a navy blue suit, spent most of the morning posing for photographs with fellow cavaliers and civilians.

But opinion on his candidacy for president was varied among his classmates.

Retired Gen. Jaime Canatoy told reporters that Lacson had strong support "in almost all classes."

"Blood is thicker than water, you know," Canatoy said.

Director Jose Lalisan of the PNP's Directorate for Records and Personnel Management said the agreement among the classmates was to stay apolitical.

But according to retired Col. Gen Molate, "it is hard for some of us to express support for him because they are in the active service."

"What he [Lacson] has emphasized to us is to follow the rule of law," Molate said.

'Uncle Bobo'

PMA officials had banned campaign posters and materials at the affair.

But many streamers displayed along Loakan Road, the main road leading to the PMA, expressed support for Lacson's candidacy.

One streamer played on the initials of the PNP, AFP, PMA, Philippine Army, Philippine Air Force, and Philippine Navy. It said: "PNP—Ping na Ping; PN—Ping Na; PA—Ping Already; AFP—All For Ping; PAF—Ping Always and Forever; PMA—Ping Most of All."

Even messages from "Uncle Bobo," the PMA's anonymous critic of the 1950s, returned yesterday.

An Uncle Bobo streamer read: "What could be so bad about us PMA graduates that we are not able to have an alumnus become the next president of the Philippines?"

Oldest, youngest alumni

The oldest alumni present was retired Col. Reynaldo Bocalbos of Class '40. Bocalbos, 85, did not march but sat beside General Abaya.

The youngest alumnus was 2nd Lt. Ronaldo Mamangon, who graduated last year.

The most watched alumni were the 36 members of Magiting Class of 1995, but reporters noted the absentees.

Class members Navy Lt. (SG) Antonio Trillanes IV, Army Captains Gerardo Gambala and Milo Maestrecampo and Marine Capt. Gary Alejano were among the core leaders of the Magdalo group, which staged the failed mutiny in Makati last July.

They are being detained at a holding center of the Intelligence Service of the AFP.

But reporters failed to get a statement from the class members.

Capt. Allen Dalangin said his classmates decided not to talk about their more famous classmates. They wore white shirts with black and green stripes on the right side, but Dalangin said this had no special or political meaning.

Other senatorial candidates who attended the homecoming included reelectionist Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a member of Class '61, former Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas III, an honorary member of Class '84, and former Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, an adopted member of Class '67.

Other notable honorary "mistahs" included former President Fidel Ramos of Class '51, former Tarlac Gov. Margarita "Tingting" Cojuangco of Class '83 and Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. of Class '84. *With reports from Robert Abano, Frank Cimatu and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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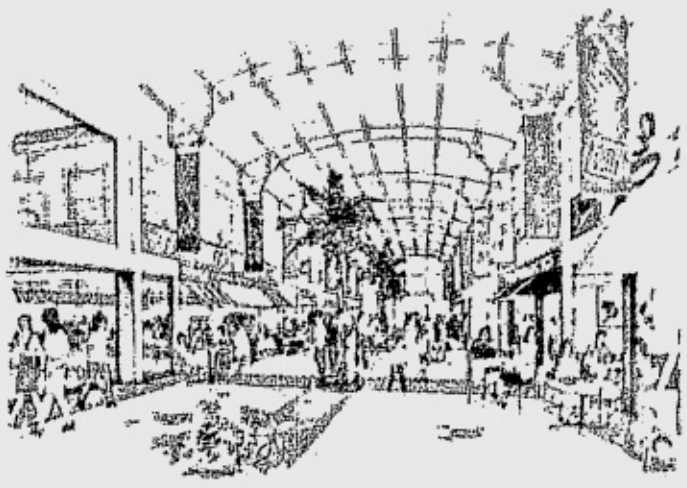
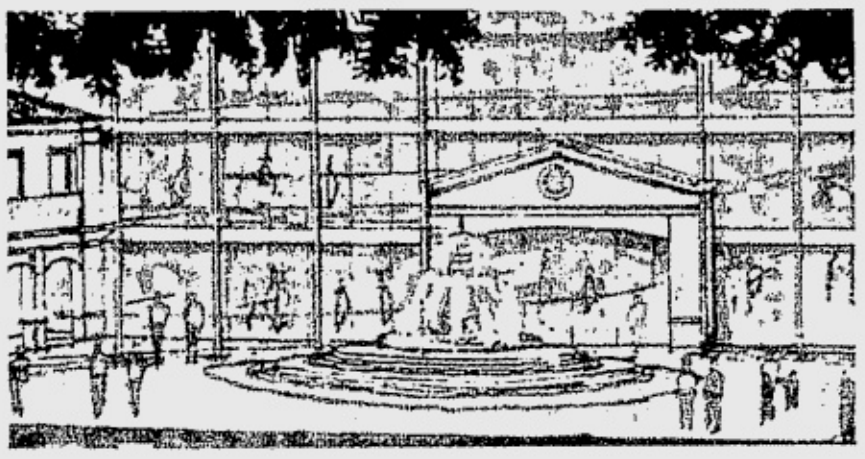


Interior Walkway of Commercial Arcade



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6 more charged in Cheng kidnap

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has filed charges against six more suspects in the abduction of a daughter of the late Uratex Phils. owner Robert Cheng in 2001.

State Prosecutor Phillip Kimpo filed the charges with the Quezon City Regional Trial Court after a suspect who had been arrested earlier turned state witness and identified his accomplices in the abduction of Mary Grace Cheng-Rosagas on the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City on June 18, 2001.

With the new respondents, the number of accused in the kidnapping rose to 24.

Of the 24, however, only four—state witness Cancio I. Cubillas Jr., Rolando L. Villaver, Edgardo D. Decipulo and Nicomedes Gerilla— are in police custody. The rest are at large with three still unidentified.

The accused who haven't been caught were identified as Eugene Radam, Florante N. Concepcion, Joven P. Mercado, Junjun and Ningning Villaver, Vicente Lugnasen, Danny Velasquez, Cesar Olimpiada, Chris Abner, Apolonio Opulencia, Rolly and Harold Fajardo, Manny Escobar, Allan Celebre, Idoy Trota and Lito Mercado.

The 24 accused allegedly conspired to kidnap Cheng-Rosagas, her driver Dionisio Burca and her bodyguard Valentin Torres.

Armed with high-powered guns, they seized the three from Cheng-Rosagas' Mercedes-Benz while it was passing in front of Malcolm Hall on the UP campus, records of the case showed.

The suspects held the victims until Cheng reportedly paid P15 million in ransom. Kimpo recommended no bail for the accused.

Philip C. Tubeza

Fresh troops to Iraq

BAGUIO CITY—About 40 Filipino soldiers will be deployed to Iraq to replace some of a contingent that has been there for six months as part of coalition peacekeeping forces, an official Saturday.

The Philippines' special envoy to Iraq, Frank Cimatu, said in this northern resort city that the 40 soldiers would be sent at the end of the month to help in civic activities in Iraq.

They will replace 43 members of a 96-member team of soldiers, police and humanitarian workers who were deployed in August as part of the Philippines' contribution to restoring stability to Iraq.

Originally, all 96 were set to return after Feb. 22 but Cimatu said only 43 were returning home as the rest had asked to extend their stay.

The Philippine contingent has been engaged in humanitarian activities and the training of new Iraqi police force and is not involved in combat operations.

AFP

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

2003 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

President Gloria

Secretary Roberto M. Pagdanganan

Tuloy tuloy!

- The DAR distributed 126,661 hectares of agricultural lands, including the 26,490 hectares on leasehold.

This exceeds President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's SONA commitment to distribute 100,000 hectares each year. Since President Gloria assumed office, the yearly target has always been exceeded.

To date, DAR has distributed a total of 3,408,118 hectares against its total working scope of 4,290,453 hectares. More than 1,700,000 farmer-beneficiaries (FBs) directly benefit from the program.

Number of hectares to go: 882,335 hectares.

This year, the DAR aims to distribute 200,000 hectares.

Walang tigil!

- Hallmark accomplishments: The installation of farmers on very critical areas such as:

☞ In Sumilao, Bukidnon where 69 farmers got their Certificates of Landownership Award (CLOAs).

☞ In Pontevedra, Negros Occidental for 185 former tenants of the late Fernando Lopez.

☞ In Hacienda San Benito in Moises Padilla and Hacienda Conchita in La Castellana, both in Negros Occidental.

☞ 106 FBs in Hacienda San Benito were also installed in a portion of the 316.76-hectare sugarcane plantation of Enrique Miguel Lacson.

Walang hinto!

- With its Program Beneficiaries Development (PBD), DAR launched a total of 45 Agrarian Reform Communities (ARCs) covering an additional of 626 barangays in 2003.

ARCs are clusters of barangays where land distribution is almost completed and where there is convergence of services from different CARP-implementing agencies, donor countries, and the local government units.

From 1993 to 2003, DAR launched a total of 1,710 ARCs nationwide covering 6,426 barangays. By June 2004, barangays covered are expected to double.

In 2001-2003, 1,467 farmers' organizations were formed involving a total of 104,715 members. Five hundred eighteen were formed in 2003 involving 45,008 members.

Sec. Pagdanganan emphasizes the strengthening of cooperatives to propel progress in the countryside.

Umaabante!

- DAR was cited last year by World Bank as the number one performer of Official Development Fund Assistance (ODA).

As of December 2003, DAR generated a total of P40.58-billion for the implementation of various development projects for 869 ARCs nationwide covering 3,350 barangays.

DAR foreign assisted fund projects have achieved:

☞ Irrigation facilities covering 9,292 hectares of farmlands

☞ Farm-to-market roads covering 394 kms.

☞ Bridges, 450 lms.

A total of 29,333 hectares of farmlands with irrigation facilities nationwide since 2001; 2,084 kms. of farm-to-market roads; and 3,533 lms. bridges.

Today, there are 15 major on-going foreign-assisted projects. Three (3) of which are in the start-up stage of implementation:

☞ The Northern Mindanao Community Initiatives and Resource Management Project (NMCIREMP) worth P 1,135.78-M funded by Development (IFAD);

☞ The P110-M Community-Managed Agrarian Reform and Poverty Reduction Program Expanded Piloting (CMARPRPEP) funded by Japan Social Dev't.Fund;

☞ The P3,419-B Agrarian Reform Community Development Project (ARCDP-2) funded by the World Bank.

Tinatapos!

- In 2003, 19,730 agrarian law implementation cases and 13,616 adjudication of agrarian cases were resolved. which bring to a total of 60,368 agrarian law implementation cases and 47,753 adjudication cases already resolved since 2001.

Rumaratsa!

- Launched Diosdado Macapagal Agrarian Scholarship Program, which aims to boost the chances of children and heirs of farmers to finish college.

1,483 slots were allocated to qualified and deserving children and descendants of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) enrolled in 128 school campuses all over the country this school year.

- 71 Kalahi ARZones (Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan Agrarian Reform Zones) were established covering 6,351 barangays in 2003.

KARZone is to double the number of barangays covered by ARCs. It aims to elevate the ARCs and adjacent barangays to a higher level of development.

- Established the "Bahay Ugnayan ng Magsasaka (Farmers Center)" at DAR Quezon City, a one-stop shop for all agrarian reform concerns that allows the Secretary and senior DAR officials to sit directly with farmers and deal with their issues.

Umuungos!

- Pagdanganan urged the Congress to pass as soon as possible the House version of the "Farmland as Collateral Bill (House Bill 5511) to provide ARBs not only access to credit but also to guarantee fund that would take care of the farmers' obligations in case of default.
- The DAR aims to double the government's land distribution target this year, following the Sandiganbayan's directive, ordering the immediate transfer of the $683-million (roughly P38 billion) Marcos Swiss deposits to the national treasury.

As initiated by President Gloria P30 billion of the recovered ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses would go to agrarian reform fund, while P8 billion would be used to compensate human rights victims during the martial law years.

Of the P30 billion, P8 billion of the Marcos fund will be used to buy lands and pay former landowners while the remaining P22 billion would be used to speed up the delivery of support services such as farm-to-market roads, bridges, irrigations and post-harvest facilities, school buildings and other agrarian-related projects such as acquisition of new farm technology, establishment of credit facilities to small farmers and the conduct of livelihood seminars.

Todo An DAR Sa Kaunlaran!

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

There's no 'taho' in Sydney

From page A1

der to promote better understanding and relations between the media of Australia and its regional neighbors.

Without pausing to draw breath, I found myself at the departure lounge of Sydney Airport just four weeks after winning the fellowship.

As I sat on the plane I browsed through my hastily compiled research on the Philippines. My guidebook recommended that tourists escape Manila at the first opportunity. The internet stories I had gathered described the corruption, the kidnapping and the crime wave. My government's travel advisory encouraged caution and warned of robbery and terrorism. And, an international media watchdog body tallied seven murdered Filipino journalists in 2003.

I really did not think I would like Manila.

I have been in the Philippines for six weeks now. I have not been robbed, kidnapped, blown up, bribed or killed. I have, however, been charmed.

The dangers and controversies of the Philippines are well-publicized, but I will take away from Manila memories of the kindness, not the criminality, of the Filipino people.

Stories of the legendary Filipino hospitality had reached me in Sydney before I left, but I had not bargained on its strength. People who barely knew me took me into their homes. People who struggled to buy each day's groceries fed me. I have been truly humbled by the generosity and the indefatigable good nature of the Filipino people.

I had imagined my life in the Philippines to consist of watching cable in my apartment every night. However, the tireless efforts of the young Filipinos who adopted me ensured that I soon came to know and love Filipino food and the timeless art of "gimmicking."

While humbled by the people, I have been awed by the press. I had not expected a country that has yet to complete its second consecutive decade of a restored democracy to have such a stable and well-developed media.

Coming from Australia with a small population able to support only a handful of broadsheet and tabloid daily newspapers, the Philippine media looked to be an exotic banquet to me. The depth and diversity of the Filipino press are something of which the country is rightfully proud.

During my time working in the Philippine press, I have found its boast about being the freest in the region to be true, and then some.

The Philippines is an amazingly dynamic, vibrant, complicated country. While it has its problems, I feel these are often dwelt on to the neglect of its many attributes.

I will watch the lights of Manila fade from my airplane window next week with reluctance. I will miss Manila for, among so many other things, there is no *taho* (bean curd in syrup) in Sydney.

MASS kissing session was led by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and his wife Evelyn.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3621 Series of 2003

5,122 pairs smooch their way to world kissing record

From page A1

kissing couples which occupied a 2-km stretch of Roxas Blvd. beside Manila Bay from Pedro Gil St. to Quirino Ave.

"Let's take a break from the troubles we have been having from our work, from political bickering. After all, it's Valentine's Day," said Atienza.

"A kiss is the best gift you could give a loved one. Who knows, a kiss may even be a way for us to be united," said Atienza who is seeking reelection in May.

10-second lip-lock

Thousands of onlookers cheered as the couples, with some women covering their faces, kissed for at least 10 seconds at the stroke of midnight on Friday.

The end of the 10-second clinch was marked with a fireworks display that lit up the night sky moments into Valentine's Day.

While some couples seemed restrained, giving each other little more than a peck, some really relished the 10-second kiss, with eyes closed and lips firmly locked.

Atienza said participation was restricted to married couples because of the country's conservative Catholic culture, but a casual check of participants found many of them were not married.

Audited tally

The AC Nielsen research and audit firm deployed 500 marshals on Roxas Blvd. to come up with a tally of the registered couples who were required to submit entry forms as required by Guinness for the event's documentation.

The AC Nielsen's validation would be electronically sent to Guinness and the documentation couriered to Guinness' London office, said Close-Up assistant brand manager Claire Pascua.

"It will take around two to three weeks for Guinness to validate it. Right now, AC Nielsen is cross-counting the results. After this, the events managers will also be checking the tally," she said.

The participating couples, who registered in the eight booths set up on the night of the event or pre-registered online and in schools and malls, ranged in age from 18 years to elderly.

Rekindle happiness

"This is a chance to rekindle our happiness. This is our Valentine's Day celebration before our four kids go out on their own dates tomorrow," said retiree Bert Santos.

"We came with our friends just to see what the event is all about," said Vangie, his wife of 28 years who looks forward to spending the rest of her life with the man she married in 1976. Vangie works as a stenographer at the House of Representatives.

The Santoses were with three other married couples who have been their friends for years.

"We wanted to be part of a world record," said Marivic Villaverde who has been married for 20 years to husband Sebastian. They said they considered the kissfest a wholesome undertaking.

"There is nothing wrong with it, we kiss in front of our kids," said Marivic.

Exceeded target

Organizers said the turnout exceeded their target. By the event's peak, the organizers estimated the crowd at 35,000, including the more than 10,000 participants.

Aside from the 10-second main attraction, the six-hour event was sustained by a free concert in which pop artists and bands serenaded the crowd with love songs to which many in the crowd would sing along from time to time.

Police and ambulances could be seen standing by as the crowd gradually broke up. The event ended at 2:30 a.m. yesterday.

Atienza pronounced the kissing marathon a "resounding success."

"This is a tremendous reaction, overwhelming. This is very indicative of the Filipinos' love for feasting and enjoyment of life," said the mayor.

SUERTRES 4 1 1

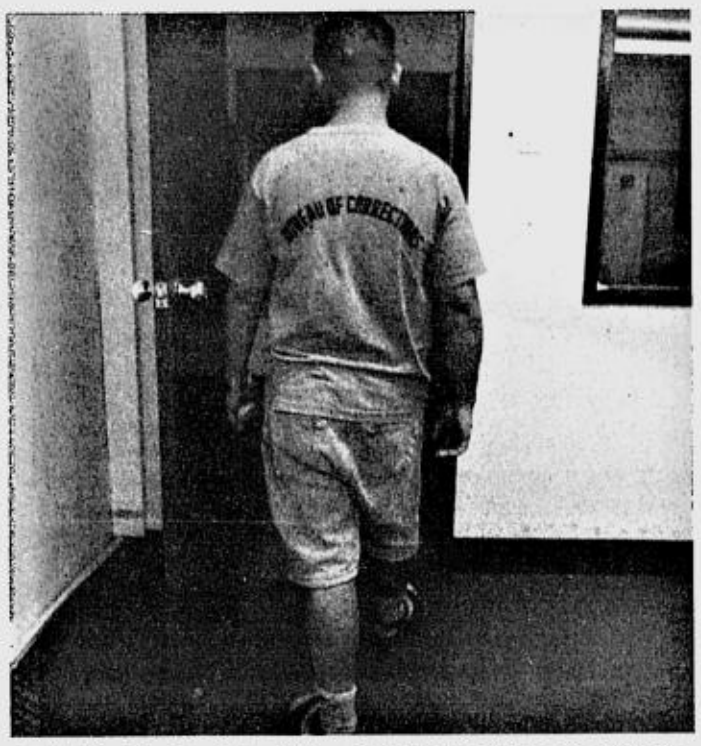
SIX DIGIT (In exact order) 0 4 7 0 2 2

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

6/42 Luzon 5 12 15 16 23 34

Vis-Min 5 17 18 20 32 38



AFTER the interview, John Anthony Uy, 22, turns his back to return to his cell at Muntinlupa's New Bilibid Prisons—a place he may have to call home for the rest of his life. JOAN BONDOC

Youth comes to grips with life in prison

By Margaux Ortiz

"THIS is God's plan, but we have yet to experience justice."

James Anthony "Wang-Wang" Uy, 22, is the youngest of the six men convicted for the abduction, rape and killing of Marijoy and Jacqueline in Cebu City six years ago.

Uy's brother James Andrew, or "Em-Em," received the death penalty for the crime, along with Francisco Juan "Paco" Larrañaga, a scion of the influential and powerful Osmeña clan, Jozman Aznar, whose family owns a hospital and a school in Cebu, Rowen Adlawan, Ariel Balansag and Alberto Cano.

Spared

Uy, however, was spared from the death penalty because he was only 16 at the time the crime was committed.

The Supreme Court last week imposed the death penalty on the six convicts, instead of merely affirming the two life sentences handed down by the late Judge Martin Ocampo on May 5, 1999.

But Uy was quick to clarify that he did not feel lucky or blessed with the high court ruling.

Unfair

"People think I'm lucky because I did not get the death (penalty), and my original double life term was reduced to a life sentence," Uy told the INQUIRER during an interview at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa.

"It's so unfair, having to waste my life for something I did not do," Uy emphatically said in Cebuano.

Uy also said he felt sorry for his brother Em-Em, whom he said was only 17 when the crime took place.

"We really wonder why my brother was also given the death penalty when he was also a minor then," Uy said.

The young convict added that they were devastated when they learned about the high tribunal ruling last Wednesday.

"I could not eat nor sleep since I heard the news," Uy said. "My brother and I kept on crying inside our cell."

He also said that he saw his fellow convicts Larrañaga and Aznar pass by their cell, looking depressed.

Uy, who now works as an assistant draftsman to an architect inside the maximum security compound, said he was going to immerse himself in work during the next weeks "to ease the pain of injustice."

Born Again

"I'm going to finish three (architectural) plans in the next month," he said, adding that he still dreams of finishing architecture at the University of Santo Tomas.

Uy also revealed that he and his brother, who were born Mormons, have converted to Born-Again Christians inside the NBP.

What a waste

The older Uy now serves as the resident pastor of Jesus Is Alive church after he finished studying in a bible school inside the compound.

Uy added that he drew the plans for their church's construction.

"You see how productive we are inside (prison)?" he said, smiling. "I hope I would not waste my life away behind bars. *Sayang talaga* (It would be such a waste)."

Uy said that he was looking forward to seeing his family again. He said his parents and siblings would be visiting from Cebu this week.

"So much has happened since we were convicted. But much will still take place if we were allowed to live our lives as free people."

A thousand weddings in a day

By Tina Santos

IT WAS truly a day of love in Caloocan City and Navotas yesterday as a thousand couples tied the knot during mass weddings sponsored by the local governments.

The thousand couples exchanged their vows in ceremonies officiated by Mayor Rey Malonzo of Caloocan, and Mayor Toby Tiangco of Navotas.

In Caloocan, more than 600 couples said their "I dos," in an affair that highlighted the week-long celebration of the city's founding anniversary, which falls on Monday.

Couple Jerry Canlas, 45, and Gemma Abuel, 36, of Dagat-dagatan, Caloocan, have been living together for eight years, and were among the hundreds whose union was blessed in yesterday's nuptials.

"This is a memorable event for both of us, especially since it happened on the day of hearts," Gemma said in Filipino. "We are grateful that we became part of this joyous occasion."

Another couple, Lando and Tina Llanza, who have been living together for 10 years now, said that they decided to tie the knot for the sake of their children.

"I want them to carry my husband's name and, besides, one of my kids needs our marriage certificate in time for her First Communion," Tina said.

In Navotas, more than 500 couples joined the mass wedding, dubbed "Libreng Kasal sa Buwan ng Pagmamahal."

The mass wedding was held in two sites—the first was held in front of the municipal hall then later, at the San Lorenzo Parish in North Bay Boulevard South, Navotas.

Malonzo and Tiangco said children of the newly legitimized couples can now enjoy the full protection of the law.

For Caloocan residents who still want to tie the knot, the city will hold another mass wedding on Monday, Caloocan's foundation day.

LOVE is in the air as a thousand lovers get to exchange vows in a series of mass weddings in Caloocan and Navotas. ERIK ARAZAS

3 suspected hijackers slain in shootout

THREE suspected hijackers early Friday morning were killed when they traded shots with members of a highway patrol unit on the North Luzon Expressway in Barangay Tiaong, Guiginto, Bulacan.

Only one of the slain suspects was identified—Florentino Vinarao of Malabon, Metro Manila.

The bodies of the suspects were taken to the St. Matthew funeral homes in Guiginto.

Police said the suspects were on board a trailer truck loaded with 30 tons of iron materials when members of Task Force Limbas of the Traffic Management Group caught up with the three men near the Tiaong stretch of the expressway at around 1:30 a.m.

The suspects, who were armed with a .45-caliber pistol and .38-caliber revolvers, immediately opened fire, prompting the lawmen to fire back, according to a police report.

The iron materials, worth more than P1 million, came from Port Area in Manila, and were to be delivered to Venus Steel Co. in Cainta when the suspects supposedly hijacked the cargo.

The driver and the helper of the truck, who were dumped by the suspects somewhere in Metro Manila, reported the incident right away to the TMG based in Camp Crame, Quezon City. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Man sees red on Valentine's

AS PEOPLE early yesterday morning welcomed the day of hearts, Julius Cabotolan was killed.

PO3 Rodelio Lingcong of the Western Police District said Cabotolan, 20, a mall employee of Sampaloc, Manila, was stabbed at a neighbor's house where he was sharing drinks with his friends. At 3:15 a.m., Rolando Endozo, 56, also of Sampaloc, reportedly had an argument with Cabotolan. In the middle of the confrontation, Endozo allegedly pulled out a knife and stabbed Cabotolan in the back.

The victim was brought to Ospital ng Sampaloc, where he was pronounced dead. The suspect is in police custody. *Tarra Quismundo*

Critics give Roco an upgrade from liar to devil-worshipper

CRITICS have been having a field day with presidential aspirant Raul Roco, calling him a liar at first, and now, a full-blown devil-worshipper.

According to Gov. Luis Villafuerte, Roco's campaign hand signal is not a sign of love but a Satanic salute.

Villafuerte said that he has made studies on the hand signal—where the thumb, index finger and pinky stick out—and learned that it is also called the "Horned Hand," a sign of recognition among those who worship Satan.

He said that according to researchers, satanic cult members would hold rituals where they make the hand gesture before an image of Bahomet, to pledge their allegiance to Satan.

Anton LaVey, founder of the Church of Satan, is shown in the back of the Satanic Bible that he wrote, gesturing the "Horned Hand."

Politicians believe that the hand signals they use in campaigning could mean the difference between defeat and victory.

But Roco maintains that his signal simply means "I love you," as spelled out in sign language.

Earlier, Zenaida Simbulas, a psychic consulted by politicians, businessmen and showbiz personalities, said that Roco's hand signal attracts negative energies because it is in the form of horns. *Tina Santos*

Helmet could have saved crash victim

A HELMET would have saved the life of a young motorcycle crash victim in Cainta, Rizal, the other night.

Ronnie Saguid, 22, died while undergoing treatment at the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center in Marikina City.

His companion, Jojo Rivera, was declared out of danger yesterday. Police said the men, both residents of Suburban Heights, Barangay San Juan, Cainta, were cruising on Felix Ave. in Barangay Sto. Domingo, when the driver lost control of the motorcycle and slammed into the road's center island at around 10 p.m. Friday.

On impact, Saguid hit his head on the pavement, police said.

Both men had no crash helmets, investigators added. *Luige del Puerto*

Chavit book hits Top 10 listing

THE BOOK, "The Nine Lives of Luis 'Chavit' Singson," in January became one of the top ten best-sellers in almost all National Bookstore branches, following its successful launch last December.

The book is an in-depth biography of the former Ilocos Sur governor, written in breezy, conversational style by Linda C. Limpe.

It chronicles the life of a businessman from the north who became the political patriarch of his province and, later on, a well-known figure in Philippine politics.

Easy to read, the book gives interesting insights on Singson's life, including his near-death experiences, his women, his tenure as governor, his accomplishments and the scenes behind the Erap-Chavit feud that led to the historic EDSA Dos event.

Published by Foresight Books, "The Nine Lives of Luis 'Chavit' Singson" is available in all National Book Store branches.

For the disabled, Caloocan is an unfriendly place

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

WHEN Manny Batac, 46, goes to the Caloocan City Hall, he often finds it difficult to make transactions. Most of the offices are on the second and third floors and his wheelchair is useless in the building's stairs.

There are elevators in the city hall. But they are not functioning.

Batac has muscular dystrophy, a disease which weakens the muscles, confining him to a wheelchair for the last 10 years.

As a leader of an organization of disabled persons, Batac has been campaigning against establishments and local government units that are unfriendly and inaccessible to disabled people.

They don't want to feel useless

According to Batac, Caloocan is one of the cities seen to be violating the rights of the disabled—and he added that nowhere is this more evident than in City Hall.

The non-functioning elevators and the lack of ramps for the disabled has made offices in city hall inaccessible to those confined to wheelchairs.

Batac said this is in violation of Batas Pambansa Bilang 344 (An Act to Enhance the Mobility of Disabled Persons by Requiring Certain Buildings, Institutions, Establishments and Public Utilities to Install Facilities and Other Devices.)

Local government officials told the INQUIRER that city hall employees may assist the disabled in reaching the second and third floors of the building by lifting them up.

But Batac said that most disabled people do not like being lifted up for they tend to feel useless.

When the INQUIRER went to the Caloocan City Hall, city architect Roy Cordero admitted that the elevators were undergoing repair, but said that the facilities would be functional within the year.

Proving his father wrong

He explained that the ramps going to city hall have been removed to give way to the construction of a metal bridge, which would connect city hall's second floor to the commercial building the local government has constructed in front of city hall.

The commercial building would be equipped with an elevator, and those going to city hall could take the elevator in the commercial center and use the bridge to go to city hall, Cordero said.

The project however may take a few months to complete.

Batac also said there are several buildings in Caloocan—all built with permits from the city government—that lacked ramps and comfort rooms for the disabled.

He said these violations existed because those supposed to be implementing the law "are the number one violators."

Batac is the youngest of 13 children and is the only one who got the hereditary disease. His battle for the rights of the disabled began right inside his family, when he suffered discrimination from his parents and siblings.

Batac said his father would always tell him to just stay in the house because he was disabled.

Batac wanted to prove his father wrong. He went to a six-month vocational school and graduated at the top of his class.

From then on he started to actively campaign for the rights of the disabled. He said that disabled people did not wish their condition, and they should be given the right to live normal lives. By giving them access to government offices through ramps, elevators and walkways, they would be able to move alone and be independent.

Batac said this was the reason for B.P. No. 344—a good law that is badly implemented.

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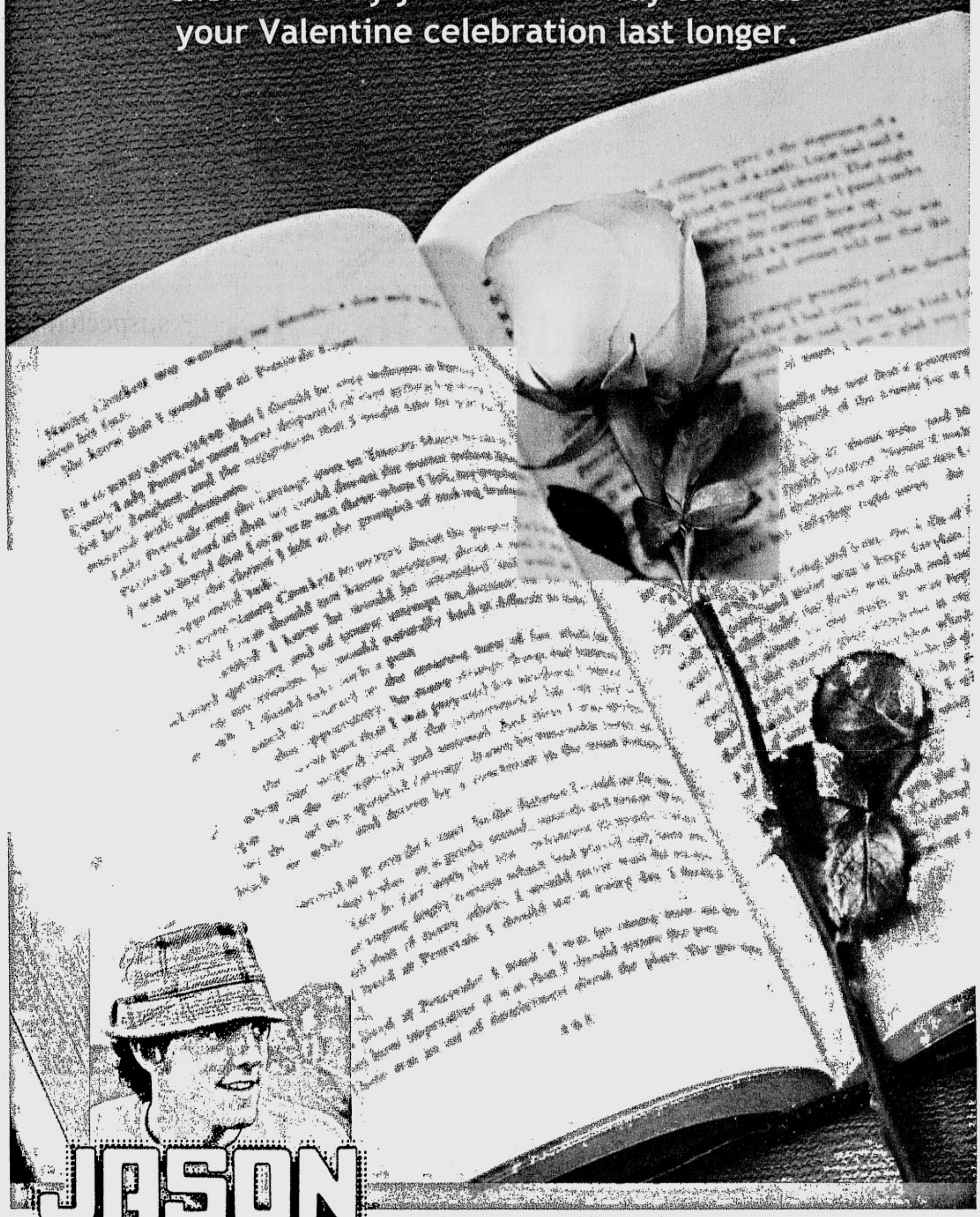

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday SPORTS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2004

A25

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

BASKETBALL: 2004 NBA All-Star Saturday Night; 7 p.m.; IBC 13—The league's best dunkers, three-point specialists, point guards, WNBA players and legends show off their skills.
2001 All-Star Weekend; 8 a.m.; 2002 All-Star Special; 8:30 a.m.: 2003 All-Star Saturday; 9 a.m.; Solar Sports—Catch the last three editions of the All-Star Weekend.
Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Manguiat

JAWORSKI is shown with Baby Dalupan after receiving the Scoop Sports Leadership Award on Friday night. Dalupan received the Lifetime Achievement Award. RANDY HORMILLOSA

NAT'L TEAM FORMATION

BAP plan a fantasy—Big J

By June Navarro

IT'S a fantasy.

This was how Senator Robert Jaworski described yesterday the plan of the Basketball Association of the Philippines to form a strong team for international competition on its own.

"As of now, going at it (international meets) alone is a fantasy," said Jaworski. "We should define the matter, integrate and come up with a long-range plan."

Jaworski, whose popularity in the sport is surpassed only by the great Caloy Loyzaga, pointed out that instead of going separate ways, the BAP and the PBA should consolidate their efforts to solidify the national team.

"When we talk of national purpose, we have to work as one. If we fail, *hindi naman sasabihin ng ibang bansa na mahina ang* BAP *o ang* PBA (other countries won't say BAP or PBA was weak). What they will all say is that the country failed," said Jaworski.

The Philippine Basketball Association had already taken a more committed step in supporting the formation of stronger national teams by synchronizing its schedule with the FIBA calendar starting this year.

But secretary general Graham Lim announced the other day that BAP has decided to again take full responsibility of forming national teams, this time with the help of pawnshop giant Cebuana-Lhuillier.

The PBA expressed dismay because the league had been supplying the BAP

BAP/ A26

Leading pros join tuneup for RP Open

CASAS

THE COUNTRY's top pros led by Cassius Casas and Robert Pactolerin will see action in an 18-hole charity fund-raiser this coming Wednesday, Feb. 18, at the Villamor Golf Club which will also serve as their final tuneup for the DHL-Philippine Open.

Dubbed as the VIP Celebrity Pro-Am golf tournament, the Professional Golfers Association of the Philippines (PGAP) is mobilizing the big names in its membership roster for the event that is mainly aimed at drawing support for its various projects this year.

Part of the proceeds will also go to the Bantay Bata 163 ABS-CBN Foundation, according to PGAP president Sarge Negrido.

A brand new Toyota Altis 1.6E through Toyota Motors Philippines Inc. is at stake as a hole-in-one prize. Major sponsors are Mizuno/Master Sports, Handog Marketing and Industrial Waste Systems Inc.

The tourney has also drawn the support of Sen. Tito Sotto, Sen. Loren Legarda, Lt. Gen. Nestor Santillan, Seibu Inc. of Fugio Fujii, Champion Regent, Mr. Ricardo Bedayo, Izakaya Kenta, The Junior Golf League Inc., Cargohaus, USGTF, W-Eagle Pro Shop, Global Holiday, Red Bull, Pisanti and Ayala Land Properties Holdings Inc.

Mizuno is putting up a special package of prizes and will award the winner with a full set of MS-11 irons, bag and wedges.

About 50 local pros will be paired with invited VIPs from the government and business sector and celebrities in the tourney with the top teams set to receive cash (for the pros) and exciting items (for the amateurs).

"We hope to solidify our ranks with this tournament and play for a cause at the same time. We're glad to have gotten the support of our top pros as well as our friends from the business community for this project," said Negrido.

Aside from Casas and Pactolerin, among those who have confirmed their participation are Carito Villaroman, Richard Sinfuego, rookie pro Jerome Delariarte, Cookie LaO, Rey Pagunsan, Antonio Lascuña and Benjie Magada.

The local pros are currently preparing for the 88th edition of the Philippine Open sponsored by DHL set for Feb. 26-29 at the Langer course of the Riviera Golf and Country Club.

Rodrigo underdog vs Japanese rival

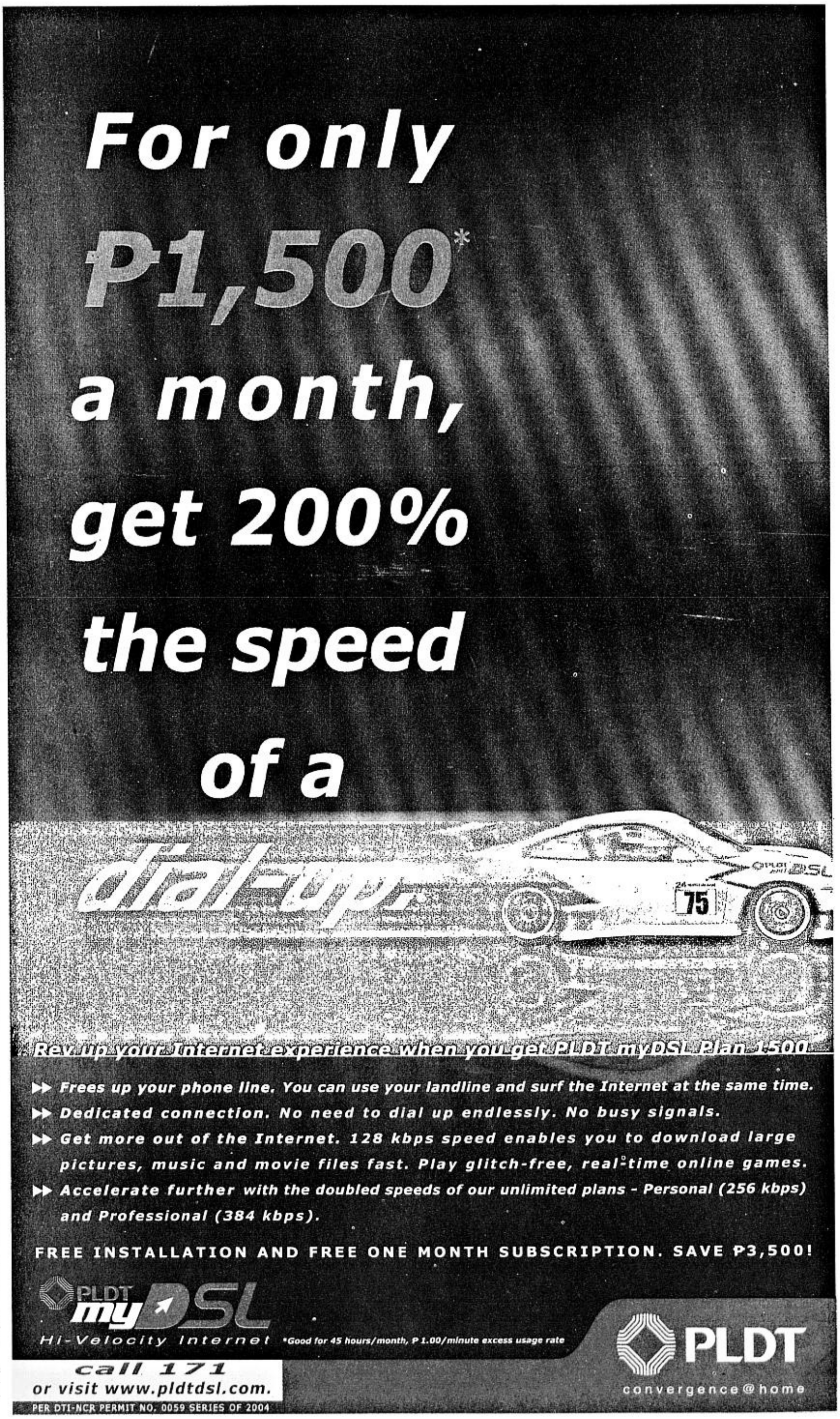
PHILIPPINE flyweight titlist Edgar "Bombardero" Rodrigo will be the heavy underdog when he challenges Oriental Pacific Boxing Federation champion Noriyuki Komatsu today in a 12-round clash at the Central Gym in Osaka, Japan.

The southpaw Rodrigo, a stocky puncher from General Santos City, hopes to become the country's fifth OPBF titlist with a win over the unbeaten Japanese prodigy.

Rodrigo carries a 9-2-3 win-loss-draw card with 4 KOs going into the fight, while Komatsu, the World Boxing Council No. 3 flyweight, sports an unblemished 17-0-5, 8 KOs ledger.

It will be Komatsu's fourth defense of the title he won over Jung-Oh Son in September 2002. In his first defense, he stopped Rolly Lunas in just two rounds.

"I will try my best to win the crown for the country," Rodrigo said moments before departing last Friday for Japan. *Salven Lagumbay, Contributor*



Lakers put happy face for All-Star

By Percy D. Della, *Contributor*

SACRAMENTO, California—In true Showtime tradition, the Los Angeles Lakers are putting on a happy face as their hometown and Staples Center play host to the NBA All-Star game and festivities this weekend.

The Lakers have reached the All-Star break lacking in cohesion, saddled by injuries and six games behind their cross-town rivals, the Sacramento Kings. With 32 games left in the regular season, the Kings hold the best record in the NBA at the break.

The decision by the front office to announce that it has broken contract negotiations with coach Phil Jackson amid the All-Star hoopla is not helping the Lakers' mood any.

The Los Angeles Times reported today that people close to the talks said "the last contract extension offer from (Lakers) owner Jerry Buss was an improvement over Jackson's $6-million base salary, and therefore Jackson would have maintained his place as the league's highest-paid coach."

But the same people in the know told the Times the negotiations bogged down because of the "reality of so much roster turnover" and Jackson's worsening relationship with superstars Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant.

It is a well-known fact in the NBA that an individualistic player like Bryant is unhappy with Jackson's famous triangle offense. There is general belief among NBA watchers that Bryant, who will be a free-agent next year, will leave for another team.

The Times reported that the Lakers organization, before committing to another multi-million dollar deal for a coach for two years, was left wondering how the Lakers team would look next season. The Times said Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak and Buss might have sensed something because of "Jackson's growing suspicion that the team would be very different and not as talented" next year.

The Times, quoting sources said the coach "began to wonder what next year's Lakers might look like, what with the probable departure of Bryant and the possible exodus of Karl Malone, Gary Payton, Derek Fisher, Horace Grant and others."

It will be recalled that veterans Malone and Payton took hefty cuts of at least $10 million apiece to come to the Lakers, with the hope of wearing a championship ring before heading off into retirement.

If he leaves the Lakers however, Jackson will be the most sought-after coach on the NBA market. He will be coveted by the New York Knicks, Philadelphia Sixers, Chicago Bulls, Dallas Mavericks and possibly other teams, according to the LA Times.

SPORTSWATCH

Andre, Andy advance

SAN JOSE, California—Andre Agassi outlasted fellow American Jan-Michael Gambill, 7-6 (4), 7-5, Friday in a sensational quarterfinals slugfest at the Siebel Open. Both players held serve until Agassi broke in the final game of the match. The 33-year-old Agassi, seeded second and a five-time winner here, has beaten fellow American Gambill eight straight times dating to Scottsdale in 1999, when Agassi retired in the first set of their semifinal match with a right hamstring strain. Agassi, who beat Gambill in the 2001 semifinals of this tournament, advances to the semifinal Saturday against either America's Mardy Fish or Hyung-Taik Lee of South Korea, who played the late match Friday. The other semi features top-seeded Andy Roddick and wild-card entry, and fellow American, Robert Kendrick. Roddick beat Joachim Johansson, 6-3, 7-6 (7), earlier Friday, pounding 27 aces to 14 for the Swede in the first meeting between the two 21-year-old big servers. *AP*

Olympex backed

THE 1ST International Sports, Fitness and Leisure Exposition on March 4-7 has gained the support of various foreign and local organizations. Dubbed as Olympex 2004, the event presented by the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Department of Tourism is likewise being endorsed by the Southeast Asian Games Federation as well as the World Federation of Sporting Goods Industry. Among Olympex's local supporters are the Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Foreign Affairs, the Philippine Chamber of Sporting Goods Association, the Philippine Center for Sports Medicine Association of the Philippines and the Association of Fitness Professionals in the Philippines. Admission is free with special discounts and promotional items to be made available during the Olympex set from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the new Exhibition Hall of the PICC. The event is sponsored by FedEx, Air21, Sta. Lucia Realty, Beam Toothpaste, Export and Industry Bank, Milo, Speedo and Bankard. Interested parties may call 672-2200 or e-mail expo@olympex.ph.

4-cock meet on tap

AFTER the smashing success of its 14th anniversary derby, Roligon Mega Cockpit comes up with another big promotion, the "Walang Iwanan 4-Cock Derby," on Feb. 28. Guaranteed prize is P440,000 with an entry fee of only P5,500. Roligon owner Rolly Ligon, derby host, reiterated that the prize indicated in all his derby promotions will be given to the winners regardless of the actual number of entries. Last Thursday, rookie breeder Carlos Pimentel and comebacking derbyist Allan Tan shared the championship of the 325-entry 14th Anniversary 7-cock derby as their bets posted seven wins apiece. Meanwhile, the "Sibuyas King 4-cock derby" is all set this coming Tuesday, Feb. 17. Entry fee is P11,000 while cash prize at stake is P400,000. Providing assistance to the derby are Renato Shio and Flower Group. For inquiries, contact 833-2275, 833-1638, 852-9812 and 852-9774.

Sy named top rookie

TYSON Sy, the youngest Filipino international formula driver, captured the top award in the 2004 Golden Wheel Motorsports ceremonies recently by winning first runner-up in the just concluded Formula BMW Asia Rookie Series. Sy, 16, bested six other drivers in the Rookie Championship of the newest formula series to hit the Asian region. FBMW Asia replaced the AF2000 Championship. Tyson's spectacular feat was made possible through the efforts of Demvels Enterprises and Team Goddard-QHR. "I'm very happy about this award," said the soft-spoken Sy, who finished the series behind Korean rookie champion Kyong-Ouk You.

'Fistorama' today

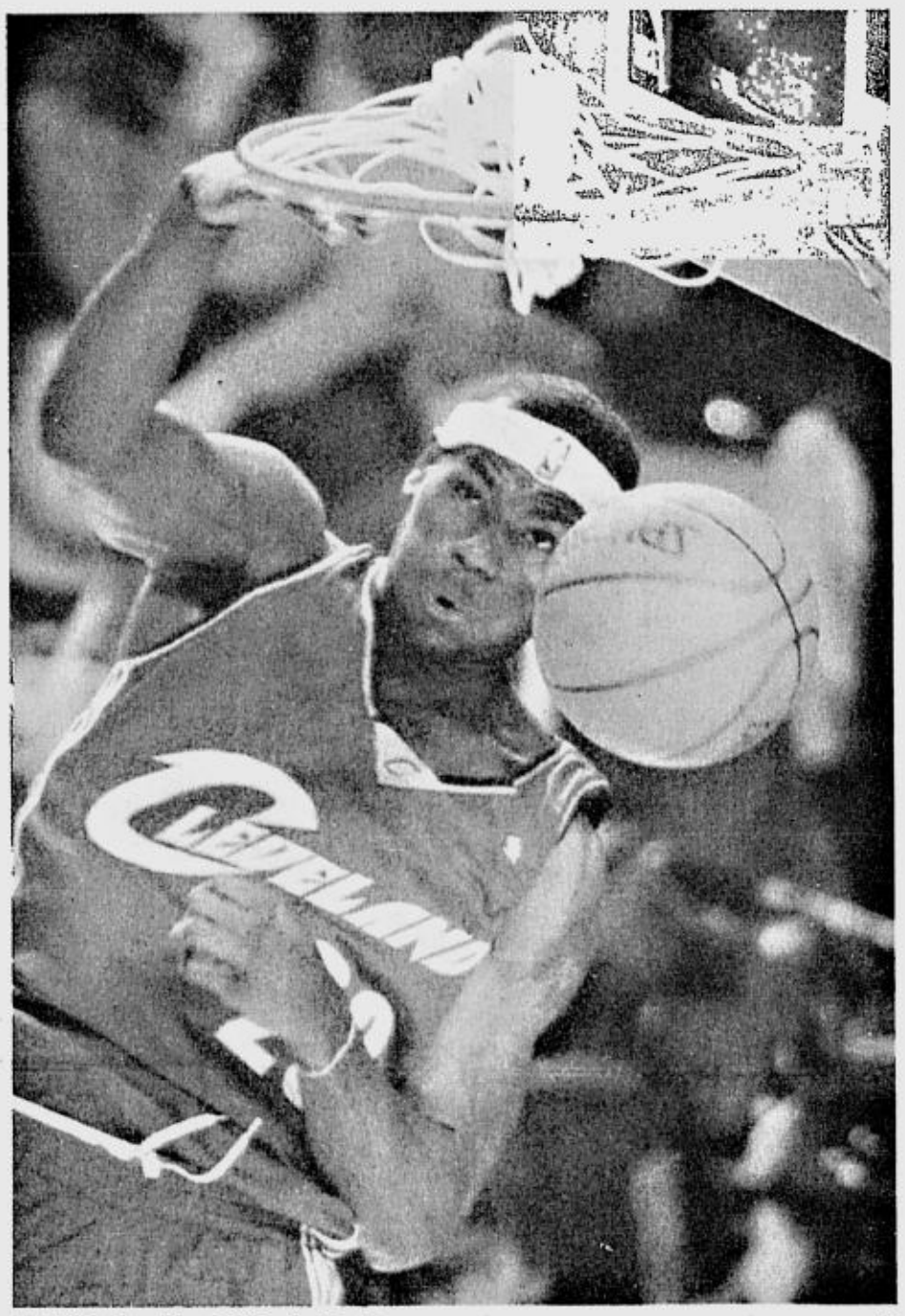
SAMSUNG'S Fistorama today features three exciting bouts in the light flyweight and superflyweight divisions. Sonny Boy Jaro faces Noel Guliman in six rounds at 108 lbs. Eric Rapada squares off with Roberto Moreno in eight rounds at 115 lbs and Ricky Manatad tangles with Christopher Tepura in eight rounds also at 115 lbs. The fights were held last week at the state-of-the-art Joe Cantada Boxing arena in Bicutan, Taguig. The show is aired at 2 p.m., Sundays, on RPN-9 and is backed by Samsung Electronics Phils. Corp. Golf Power, featuring this week the Bill Shaw Invitational at Wack Wack, follows the boxing program at 3 p.m.

BAP plan . . . From page A25

not only with players but costly logistics as well in the last four Asian Games.

"I believe we have the talent to make it to the ABC and the Olympics. But as I've said, we have to unite first and define our responsibilities, objectives and vision for the team," said Jaworski, who actually coached the first all-PBA team in the Asiad during the 1990 Beijing Games. That RP team finished second behind China.

Jaworski was bestowed a leadership award by the Scoop Friday night for crafting Republic Act 9064 otherwise known as the Sports Incentives Law.



JAMES dunks with might for the Rookies. AP

'Bron, Carmelo wow crowd but Rookies lose

LOS ANGELES—LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony were more than ready for prime time—and their new buddy show was a smash hit.

James scored 33 points and hooked up with Anthony for four breathtaking alley-oop dunks that were the best moments in the sophomores' highlight-filled 142-118 victory in the Rookie Challenge on Friday night.

Though neither player was selected for Sunday's All-Star game, James and Anthony are arguably the NBA's most anticipated rookie duo since Magic Johnson and Larry Bird—and in a game mercifully free of defense, they put on a show worthy of the hype.

In their only competition of the weekend, the 19-year-old prodigies were the main attractions on a rookie team going against a squad of second-year pros led by Yao Ming and MVP Amare Stoudemire, who had 36 points and 11 rebounds.

James' pairing with Anthony was so enticing that the NBA moved the game from its usual spot in All-Star Saturday festivities, giving it a prime-time slot Friday night before a sellout crowd at Staples Center. While James provided most of the gasp-inducing highlights, Anthony scored 17 points.

Stoudemire, last season's Rookie of the Year, made an incredible number of uncontested dunks. Carlos Boozer and Ronald Murray added 25 points apiece for the second-year pros, who made nearly 71 percent of their shots in the first half to turn it into a blowout.

But nobody cared: James, wearing gold-colored shoes that wouldn't be legal during the regular season, gave a performance that steadily got better after losing the opening tip to Yao, who barely jumped to swat the ball away from the 6-foot-8-inch (2.3-meter) James. *AP*

Kobe wants to be with LA 'for life'

LOS ANGELES—NBA star Kobe Bryant said repeatedly Friday that he wants to be a Los Angeles Laker "for life," though he still plans to opt out of his contract and become a free agent this summer.

Responding to a report that he has already made it clear to the Lakers organization that he has decided to leave, Bryant said the story was untrue.

"I want to be a Laker for the rest of my life. That hasn't changed," said Bryant, who has been with Los Angeles throughout his eight-year NBA career.

He said he wants to opt out of his contract to experience what it would be like to be courted as a free agent, though he said—as he has throughout the season—his first choice is to stay.

Speaking with reporters for about 30 minutes at an All-Star media availability session, Bryant tried to deflect questions about his future by saying he wasn't thinking about it.

Bryant said he has kept in regular contact with general manager Mitch Kupchak, who faces the prospect of losing Bryant as a free agent with nothing in return if the 25-year-old superstar decides to leave.

When it was pointed out to Bryant that someone who wants to be a Laker for life should have no need to test free agency, Bryant stuck to his theme. *AP*

Aguilar is rider to beat

REVTEX ace Glenn Aguilar will be the rider to beat when the second leg of the Philippine National Motocross Championship roars off at Barangay Biday, San Fernando City, La Union, today.

Aguilar began the 2004 season with a bang as he ruled both the premier Pro Open and the Pro 125 categories of the Mayor's Cup Motocross Championship in Batangas last month.

But the drive for excellence has not abated just a bit for the 27-year-old Revtex team captain, who is coming off his best motocross season in years.

For clinching his seventh National Rider of the Year award and becoming the first Filipino FIM Asian Supercross champion, Aguilar was a major awardee in motocross by the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA). He was also named Driver of the Year by the Golden Wheel Foundation for his motocross exploits.

Hosted by the MCCLU, headed by Mayor Mary Jane Ortega, Gov. Victor Ortega and Rep. Manuel Ortega, the event is organized by the MP Turbo of Mike Potenciano and sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa) of president Ken Falco.

Laughing together

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

HERE'S one story of note sent in by Ariel de Jesus, a Toyota man always threatening to play golf:

Jesus and Moses were golfing one day. The third tee was a long water hole.

As Jesus teed up his ball, Moses told him to take the drop. Jesus reassured Moses that he would make the green. He used his driver and hit the ball hard and straight . . . straight for the middle of the pond.

Jesus turned to Moses and asked if he could do that Red Sea thing again so he could retrieve his ball. Moses split the pond and Jesus retrieved his ball and returned to the tee-off area.

Moses asked, "What in heaven's name are you doing?"

Jesus replied, "Relax, I'll make it this time."

Moses said, "Don't ask me to split the pond this time, just take the drop."

Ignoring Moses, Jesus hit a beautiful drive that again fell short of the green, right into the pond.

Moses looked at Jesus and said, "Don't ask."

Jesus went out to the pond to retrieve his ball. He walked on the water to the middle of the pond, leaned over and picked up his ball. About the same time, another foursome came up to the tee box.

One golfer asked Moses in disbelief, "Who does that guy think he is, Jesus Christ?"

Moses replied, "No, Tiger Woods."

***

If you won't laugh, can't laugh at that, fine. Jokes are not always meant to elicit laughter. Sometimes, they are intended to just make you think, or made to brighten up your day.

Whether or not you laugh at a joke cracked in your presence, it doesn't matter.

What matters is, it was cracked because one would want you to laugh. If that's not noble enough, what is?

One not laughing after hearing a joke does not mean that joke wasn't funny. Some people are simply too shy as to easily let out a big laugh when a joke is cracked at them; they just usually let out a smile. But that does not mean the joke didn't tickle them pink.

The golf joke above isn't new. It's a favorite among many golfers. I printed it here if only to prove to you that even non-golfers like Ariel de Jesus, whose sport is weight-lifting (lifting what again, Ariel-san?), can appreciate jokes about golf.

The truth is jokes, like songs, are universal. Meaning, both have universal appeal. They are appreciated, enjoyed, anywhere in the world.

You hear a joke told in Iraq and you enjoy it, tell it here and it will most probably be enjoyed, too.

You hear a song in Argentina and you enjoy it, sing it here and it will most probably be enjoyed, too. We don't understand a word Pavarotti sings but we adore him nonetheless each time he belts out that immortal Nessun Dorma.

That Moses and Jesus joke originated from the United States. It's traveled around the world and, each time it's told, it would almost always likely elicit laughter.

The power of laughter has caught up with the world. Do you know that "laughter clinics" in India have proliferated using, what else, but laughter as medicine to drive away ailments?

I've seen it on TV; the National Geographic keeps on featuring one "laughter clinic," which shows a leader among adherents forming a circle constantly cracking what sounds like a joke. After each joke cracked, they would all laugh together, or appear to be all laughing at the same time.

I think that leader does not crack jokes all the time. I think he just speaks something and, by doing so, he draws laughter from his "patients." If you happen to be there yourself and you don't know what they're up to, you may think they're a bunch of nuts.

I wonder when those "laughter clinics" would reach our shores. I'd run and become their first customer. I've seen so much misery already that I'm beginning to feel I might as well learn to laugh all the time as my way of revenge against all the jerks pretending to be Tiger Woods this side of the globe.

Just a while back, somebody mistook me for Moses.

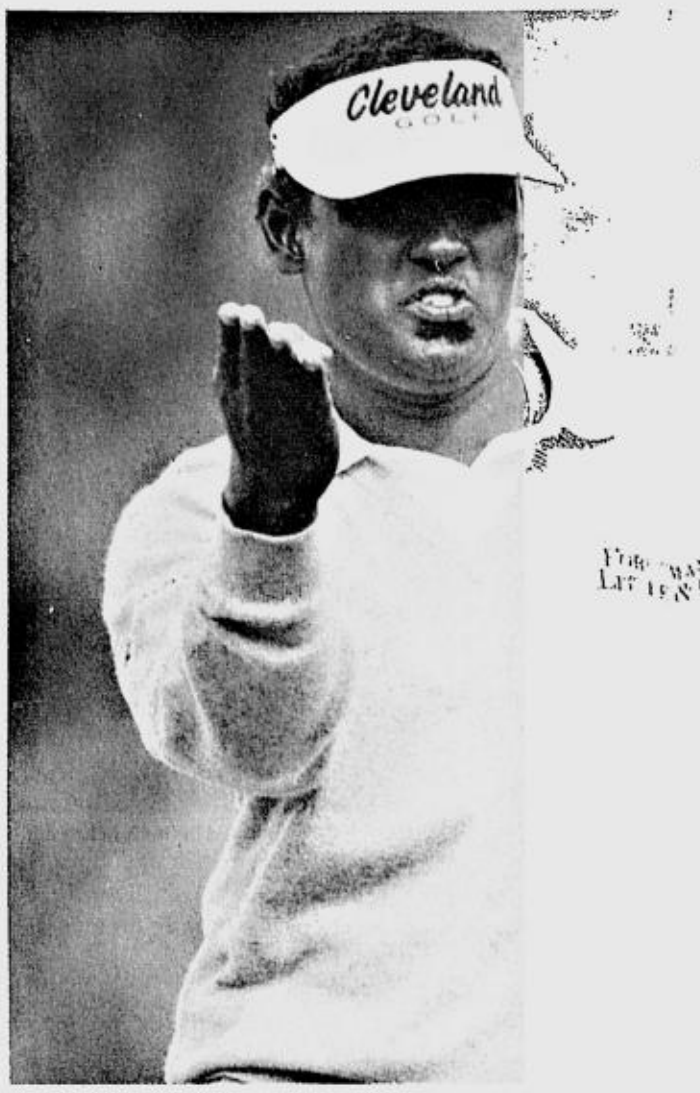
"Sorry," I said to the guy. "Don't you know who I am?"

"You are Moses," he said.

"What makes you think I am Moses?"

"C'mon," he said. "Even without that beard, you can't hide your identity. You can't fool me. Your picture in your column is without beard, too."

Go figure that out.



BUICK INVITATIONAL

Singh sinks as Cink floats

SAN DIEGO—Vijay Singh headed for the airport, not the practice range.

Golf's hottest player saw his streak of consecutive top 10s come to an abrupt end at 12 tournaments Friday when he missed the cut at the Buick Invitational. The closest he'll get to Tiger Woods this weekend is in front of the TV.

Even more surprising?

John Daly is in contention, taming the tough South course at Torrey Pines to finish only two shots out of the lead.

Lost in a wild day along the Pacific Ocean was Stewart Cink, who took only 22 putts on the easier North course and walked away with a 9-under 63 to take a two-shot lead over Daly and Steve Flesch.

Woods, meanwhile, flirted with the cut line briefly before making five birdies on his final 11 holes that gave him a 68, six shots behind Flesch with two rounds to go on the course he has dominated in recent years.

Still, most of the focus was on Singh.

SINGH: Too many mistakes

AFP

The 40-year-old Fijian had not missed a cut in 11 months and had not finished out of top 10 in six months, an amazing streak that was approaching Jack Nicklaus' modern-day record of 14 straight top 10s and allowed Singh to close the gap on Woods' No. 1 ranking.

It will be tough to make up ground from his home in Florida.

Singh missed three birdie putts from 15 feet on the final holes, shot 73 and missed the cut by one shot.

"I just made too many mistakes," Singh said. "I'll probably start a streak next week."

Phil Mickelson nearly joined him. A three-time winner at the Buick Invitational, Lefty had to birdie the last two holes for a 69 to make the cut on the number at 1 under par.

"I should be able to turn things around," Mickelson said.

History is on his side.

Woods narrowly made the cut in 1999 at Torrey Pines, shot 62-65 on the weekend and won by two. Mickelson is capable of a similar charge, so it should make for an interesting weekend.

Daly only adds to the excitement.

The guy known as "Wild Thing" was anything but that on the South course, site of the 2008 US Open, with a bogey-free 66, the best score on that track all week.

Daly left Torrey Pines without comment, but he's sure to keep the crowd buzzing on the weekend.

"He makes the game exciting," said Flesch, who played with him and shot a 68.

Cink was at 11-under 133, his first 36-hole lead since the MCI Heritage last year.

Cink didn't draw much of a gallery—certainly not the crowd following Woods, Mickelson and Daly—but his golf was worth watching on a cool day along the cliffside course.

He kept hitting it within 12 feet, sometimes closer, until the par-5 18th. His chip from behind the green rolled down a ridge and almost off the green, resting against the fringe. *AP*

Fil-9 Open gets under way Feb. 17

THE 1st Philippine Nine-Ball Open (Fil-9 Open), an eight monthlong billiards tournament offering over P1 million in cash prizes, gets under way this Tuesday (Feb. 17) at the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

Patterned after the Cardiff World Pool Championships, the event will bring together 64 top billiards players in a five-day 9-ball shootout in October. The SM Megamall stop will be the first of 16 qualifying tournaments to select the 64-man field.

Like the world championships, the Fil-9 Open Finals spans five straight days of sudden-death matches which will be aired live on Solar Sports and IBC-13.

A whopping P500,000 first prize awaits the winner while the runner-up gets P200,000. Third and fourth-placers get P100,000 each, fifth to eighth placers get P25,000 each, ninth to 16th placers get P10,000 each and 17th to 32nd placers get P5,000 each.

The 16 qualifying tournaments from February to September are open to everyone, male or female, age 18 years old and above. The top four placers in each tournament advance to the Finals in October.

The SM Megamall meet will be held at the Gameball billiards center (basement) on Feb. 17-18 and the SM Megamall entertainment center (atrium) on Feb. 19. Registration begins at 11 a.m.

The next three tournaments will be in Big Shot (Quezon Avenue) on Feb. 22-24, SM North Edsa on March 13-15 and SM Fairview on March 26-28.

"We want to create renewed interest in the sport of billiards by shining the spotlight on aspiring cue masters," said Wilson Tieng, chair of Solar Sports, the company behind the event. "Our aim is to discover the hidden talents out there, and we know there are many of them, who only need a break in order to make it to the big time."

Interested parties may call the Fil-9 Open Secretariat at 895-5366 or 890-6102, local 219. Project director is Arnold Arandilla.

RP hosting baseball tilt for boys in August

THE PHILIPPINES will host the Asia-Pacific Pony baseball tournament in the 13-14 years-old division in August, Rodolfo Tingzon Jr., Philippine TOT Baseball Association president, announced yesterday.

The tournament will run from Aug. 1-7 with Ayala Alabang Country Club, Muntinlupa City as tentative venue. China will host the Bronco (11-12 years old) division.

Tingzon also disclosed that Japanese baseball coaches, to be led by Gentaro Shimada, a former professional baseball player, will be in Manila to conduct coaching clinics for 10-12-year-old boys from March 13-14.

The Japanese baseball coaches' trip to the Philippines is sponsored by the Japanese Business Club Philippines Inc. and the Japan NGOs to enhance the Philippines-Japan relations.

Tingzon attended the Pony Baseball/Softball International Asia-Pacific Zone meeting held in Fukushima, Japan, from Jan. 30-Feb. 5.

A night to remember

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

IT'S good to know that the Philtobo Gintong Lahi Awards still exists so I dropped by to check it out last Monday night at a place called Sky Lounge in Makati.

The last time I attended this affair was during its inaugural staging six years ago at the AP Reyes Hall of Santa Ana when Real Top and Rolly Rojas got most of the awards.

Times have indeed changed, at least, in this controversial world of local racing.

Though it was supposed to be an exclusive Philtobo show, I was surprised to see people belonging to other groups mingling happily with the crowd.

Marho bosses Putch Puyat and Sandy Javier were there. Albert Trinidad of Klub Don Juan was also there and of course Philtobo stalwarts such as Nonoy Niles, Tonet Lagdameo, Manny Viray, Joy Rojas, Koko Cayco, Albet Yam and Mar Tirona.

I didn't stay long because I had to attend to some other pressing matters but my Silip Boy hung on to watch what according to him had become a "very memorable night of gathering."

The highlight of the night, my Silip Boy reported, was when Hermie Esguerra received the Horse of the Year trophy for Wind Blown.

Esguerra, who also got the Horseowner of the Year award for the second time, told everyone how horseracing made a big impact on him, how it changed his schedules and made him "turn away" from his other "loves"—golf and bowling.

Later, he made a couple of wishes in his acceptance speech that warmed the hearts of the audience.

"First, I'd like to wish that Wind Blown be as successful in his next mission as a stallion," Esguerra said, then briefly pausing, uttered the second.

"And *sana*, may we attain what we have been all longing for in this industry—unity. *Magkaisa na po sana ang lahat para sa kapakanan ng industriya ng karera.*"

There was a complete silence after that and then everybody gave him a thunderous applause.

Puyat, Javier, Trinidad and Niles later joined Esguerra on stage and the four echoed Hermie's sentiments, assuring they'll work in earnest to be united once again.

The sixth Philtobo Gintong Lahi Awards faded quietly into the night as the best and most memorable staging of them all.

***

"What's happening to the racing coverage of the 'wa-class' SLLP?" asked reader Maur Rubianosa of Llano, Caloocan City. "First, *nawala si* Ira Herrera, *ngayon naman si* Howie Basilio."

And from Hubert Calinisan of Las Pinas: "Okay *naman sina* Andy at Vince *pero kulang na kulang ang dating ng* coverage the past days *dyan sa* San Lazaro."

Hopefully, problems regarding the absence of Ira and the sudden non-appearance of Howie at the SLLP would soon be threshed out.

Our group, the WHIP (Writers of Horseracing in the Philippines), will always be there to help everyone in settling the dispute.

***

Caught the last three races last Tuesday night at Ahoy There along Timog and had a chance to meet engineer Jess Cantos.

Howie, Ira, Orlando "Galman" Primo, Jonathan Balani and Per Taboy all agreed hat Mr. Cantos was indeed a very gracious host.

***

E-mail One Winner at evillanueva@inquirer.com.ph or edongvilla@yahoo.com

RACING TIPS

Race 1--1. Kunichiwa 2. Dalidali 3. Lady be Gold
Race 2--1. Homerun King 2. Gold Collar 3. Fly Aday Fly 4. Queen Josephine
Race 2--1. Valiant Queen 2. Three of Heart 3. Come in Glory 4. Raise D Sun
Race 4--1. Batang Cabu 2. Lucky Beat 3. Silver Music 4. Better Harry
Race 5--1. Golden Cat 2. Manila Slew 3. Air Force One
Race 6--1. Golden Moment 2. Uncle Buck 3. Will to Fight 4. Dato's Pride 5. Prickly Heat
Race 7--1. Wear the Fox Hat 2. Cycles
Race 8--1. Musika 2. Gentleman's Lady 3. Blue Iris 4. Dulce My Love 5. King Edward
Race 9--1. Habagat 2. Kitana 3. Stradivarius 4. Sweet Serenade
Race 10--1. Fountain of Gold 2. Jazz in Time 3. Ann's Magic
Race 11--1. Break Away 2. Tender Value 3. Go Johnny Go 4. Bring Home D Bacon
Race 12--1. Material Maker 2. Absolute Charmer 3. Time Gentleman 4. Treeline
Race 13--1. Race for Gold 2. Spoiler 3. She Boom 4. Last Dance 5. En Carta

GINTONG LAHI AWARDS
Philtobo chair Tonet Lagdameo (left) and president Nonoy Niles Jr. (extreme right) are shown with the top awardees of the recent 6th Philtobo Gintong Lahi Awards. Also shown (from left) are Hermie Esguerra, co-host Mabelle Reyes, Sandy Javier, Ed Gonzalez, Joy Rojas, Pierre Niles and Nestor Manalang.

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GP
CINEMA 2
CHASING LIBERTY
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MILAN PG13 11:00, 1:35, 4:10, 6:45, 9:20	HAUNTED MANSION GP 11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40	MILAN PG13 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
BROTHER BEAR GP 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00 WISHING STAIRS R13 7:15, 9:30	MONA LISA SMILE PG13 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	CHASING LIBERTY PG13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

HOLLYWOOD actor Tom Cruise has come a long way since playing that Wayfarer-wearing, booty-shaking teenager who converted his home into a brothel in "Risky Business."

At 41, he has become a fine, comfortingly old-fashioned movie star.

While his screen presence still exudes that spunky cockiness and intensity he made famous in movies like "Top Gun" and "Jerry Maguire," he's added over the years an utterly natural sensibility, which makes him engaging even in offbeat performances, as in "Eyes Wide Shut," "Magnolia" and "Vanilla Sky." It's as if he's fully secure about his place in the Hollywood sun, having done his best to expand his horizons as an actor and being duly rewarded for it by critics as well as the movie-going public.

The producers of "The Last Samurai" could not have chosen somebody better to play their hero, in the kind of action-adventure every boy who has ever played with stick-swords dreams of living, and possibly every actor dreams of being in. The movie matches Cruise's stature with its vision and ambition, and the result is nothing short of rapturous.

REVIEW

Virtually flawless

Other than a protracted ending that I found too histrionic—as if the filmmakers wanted to make sure Oscar jurors don't overlook Cruise when they go shopping for a best actor (they did anyway)—"The Last Samurai" is virtually flawless.

Cruise plays Nathan Algren, a captain in the American cavalry who's billed as a hero for fighting in the Civil War and in the white colonists' campaign against the Native American Indians.

Algren though has more memories of his "heroic" battles than he would care to have. He was one of the few survivors of the legendary massacre of Gen. Custer and his men by the Sioux in the Battle of the Little Big Horn in 1876. And Algren himself, upon orders from his superiors, led the slaughter of innocent women and children in the subsequent retaliation conducted by their regiment against Indian villages.

Sorry sight

When the movie opens, we find Algren a sorry sight. Haunted by regret, his life driven by booze, he makes a living as a carnival act for the Winchester Company, "maker of quality handguns and rifles." With nothing much to live for, he joins his good friend and staff sergeant (Billy Connolly) and their former commander, Col. Bagly (Tony Goldwyn), a man Algren loves to hate, on a paid trip to Japan to help the Japanese Emperor's troops quell a band of rebel samurais.

Algren looks at his new mission with sad acceptance. He writes in his journal, "I am hired to once again stop a rebellion of another tribal leader, apparently the only job for which I am qualified."

Their first encounter against the mysterious samurai in a fog-covered forest proves disastrous. Rushed into battle, the Emperor's troops, mostly made up of farmers, are routed by the battle-tested samurais despite their superior weapons and numbers. Algren is captured and held captive in the samurai village at the behest of the samurai warlord, Katsumoto (Ken Watanabe). There, where the mountains rise like sleeping giants wreathed in cloud, he would finally confront his demons. And in the seemingly unspoiled way of life of his enemies, Algren would know friendship and honor and find redemption.

Makings of an epic

The movie's story, while not all that complex, has all the makings of an epic. Thus, it is rightfully told in a big, bold and gloriously sweeping gesture that makes lavish use of the wide screen—exploring landscapes and locations that might just as easily have come from paintings and National Geographic photographs, and expertly choreographing combat scenes as if they were for a glamorous opera. The production values of the movie are impeccable, and its cinematography and musical score combine in a breathtaking mosaic. The meticulous recreation of pre-modern Japan alone, with its great attention to detail in costumes and set design, is worth the price of admission.

Director Edward Zwick ("Glory," "Courage Under Fire," "Legends of the Fall") and his cinematographer, John Toll ("Braveheart," "Legends of the Fall"), are especially gifted at explaining things visually. Many of their most important points are made not with words but with a glance, a close-up, or detail shot.

The movie's romantic subplot, for instance, between Algren and Taka (Koyuki), the Japanese widow of a samurai Algren killed, would probably set new standards when it comes to onscreen pent-up passion. The romance is conducted as a courtship of the eyes, with Cruise and Koyuki looking into the camera or each other with such burning yearning they could almost melt the lens. Toward the end, we are meant to understand everything between them through a delicate scene where Taka puts on her slain husband's armor on Algren as he prepares for battle.

Zwick and Toll also abandon the contrivances of ordinary plotting to look introspectively at the way two fierce warriors

A COLLISION/ A29

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE
MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	POSSESSION / HUBOG
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUDNG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	MILAN
B	
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-28-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MILAN
CINEMA-2	LAST SAMURAI
CINEMA-3	GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MONALISA SMILE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BROTHER BEAR
CINEMA-6	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSCRE
CINEMA-7	LOLLIPOP
CINEMA-8	IN THE CUT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	CHASING LIBERTY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HAUNTED MANSION
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	MAGIC KITCHEN
CINEMA-12	WISHING STAIRS
CINEMA-14	MILAN
CINEMA-15	MILAN

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	LAST SAMURAI
CINEMA-1	MILAN
CINEMA-2	BROTHER BEAR
CINEMA-4	GATHERING

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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4 ACADEMY AWARD® NOMINATIONS
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR
KEN WATANABE
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3 GOLDEN GLOBE® NOMINATIONS
INCLUDING
BEST ACTOR - TOM CRUISE
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WINNER
BESTDIRECTOR
EDWARD ZWICK
NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW
TOM CRUISE
THE LAST SAMURAI
NOW SHOWING

CRUISE charges forward in this film but did not make the Oscars for his role.

You and your loved ones may be their next victims.

A terrifying story behind the facts.

Facts:

A staggering 50 per cent of all vehicle accidents around the world involve the "hit and run" drivers, a BBC North West TV programme reveals.

Around one third of all cars on the road are not fully documented, which is often the reason behind the dreadful statistics of drivers who leave their victims dying on the road.

80% of the time, the hit and run driver was never caught.

21 Grams is a real horror story behind the statistics, highlighting the human suffering and pain that follows in the wake of a hit and run accident.

Paul (Penn) is a math professor whose life is saved by a heart transplant. He learns that the heart came from a man killed with his two daughters in a hit-and-run accident. He joins the man's widow (Naomi Watts of The Ring) in seeking out the driver (Benicio Del Toro of the Hunted) and considering whether the inadvertent killer should live or die.

21 GRAMS has won more than 12 major awards as of January this year and it was nominated for the BEST ACTOR and BEST ACTRESS award at this year's Oscars.

Rated one of the best movies of the year, *21 Grams* should interest cineastes as the film is only the second from **Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu** who wowed international audiences and stunned critics with his visually arresting multilevel *Amores Perros*.

ADVT.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	MILAN
Ali 2	MILAN
Ali 3	THE HAUNTED MANSION
Ali 4	CHASING LIBERTY
Ali 5	LAST SAMURAI
Ali 6	MAGIC KITCHEN
Ali 7	THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

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FEB 25	PBA: RED BULL VS. TALK N' TEXT
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MENOPAUSE, THE MUSICAL

After the success of major film and stage productions such as "Bagong Buwan," "Ilusione," "Ilusione Encore," and "Late Nite Catechism," Bahaghari Productions has teamed up with Music Museum for "Menopause, the Musical" to celebrate the women's month of March. Meet the Power Woman (Mitch Valdes), the Earth Woman (Nanette Inventor), the Soap Star (Leah Navarro) and the Housewife (Sheila Francisco), all in a state of 'silent passage.' Directed by veteran director Leo Rial, the play will run from March 5 to April 3, Fridays and Saturdays at the Music Museum in Greenhills. Photo shows Bahaghari Productions' Margie Floirendo, Nina Romualdez, and Carmita Francisco with Music Museum's Precy Florentino in a pose depicting the production's comic slant.

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
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MATTHEW GOODE
How do you fall in love with the whole world watching?
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AOL Keyword: Chasing Liberty www.chasingliberty.com

Instituto Cervantes Warning
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6 Spanish Love Stories
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Samantha Morton
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR
Djimon Hounsou
BEST SCREENPLAY
Jim Sheridan, Naomi Sheridan & Kirsten Sheridan
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

SM CINEMA
what to watch
Romance
"MILAN"
The story follows the journey of naive Lino (Piolo Pascual) as he searches for his wife, Mary Grace, who has been missing since she left for Italy to work as a domestic helper. Arriving in Milan, Lino's one and only way of contacting Mary Grace botches up. But as fate would have it, he comes across Jenny (Claudine Barretto), a beautiful Italian-speaking Filipina who helps him find his wife. Both found themselves drawn to each other.
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Claudine Barretto Piolo Pascual
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MILAN
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Julia Roberts dazzles in 'Mona Lisa Smile'
Ladies, give yourselves a special treat, and bring your sisters, classmates, girlfriends, Mom, or even a date, to see Julia's new movie.
Academy Award®-winner Julia Roberts heads a powerhouse cast with today's hot young Hollywood actresses - Kirsten Dunst (*Spider-Man*) and Julia Stiles (*Save the Last Dance, 10 Things I Hate About You*) - in an uplifting, heart-wrenching, and often-times funny drama.
Julia Roberts stars as Katherine, a teacher who challenges her bright female students, and discovers herself along the way.
Mike Newell, director of romantic comedy *Four Weddings & a Funeral*, megs a must-see movie to capture your heart and put a smile on your face.
julia roberts
mona lisa smile
Warming hearts at a theatre near you
NOW SHOWING

A collision of visions told in bold strokes

From page A28

from vastly different cultures (Algren and Katsumoto) get to know one another. As Algren discovers the culture of the samurais, so do we. We get to know not only how the samurais live but also many members of the samurai village as well. There's more empathy here for the minor characters than the protagonists in many other films.

Visions collide

Spectacular though the action is, the movie's screenplay does offer something more substantial. The war Algren gets caught up in creates a myriad of conflicts: The Japanese Emperor, for instance, was once Katsumoto's student, and the commander of his troops is also a samurai. There are really no blood accounts to settle in the fighting that occurs between fellow Japanese. (Indeed, as Katsumoto says, he would gladly end his life should the Emperor wish for it.)

No, the real grist for the war is the collision of visions, between the Japanese traders who want to embrace modernity and the supposed benefits brought about by Westernization, and the samurais who want to keep with tradition and whose lives have remained startlingly free of contamination by the encroaching foreign civilizations. The movie's subtle commentary on the tragic eclipse of one culture by the cold white light of another should be both stirring and significant to us Filipinos because of our experience with colonization.

Dynamic match

From beginning to end, there isn't a weak performance in "The Last Samurai." Cruise finds a dynamic match in Watanabe, who projects all the emotions of Katsumoto perfectly and makes for quite an imposing figure against the picturesque landscapes. The Japanese actor has earned an Oscar nomination for best supporting actor for his work in the movie.

Watanabe's persuasive portrayal begs the question of who really is the last samurai in the movie. It's a bit hard to tell really. Thankfully, the visual images of the movie are so stunning that you won't have much time to think about it while you're watching.

More movies on pages B6, 7, 8 and 9

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Desperately seeking 'Roberta'

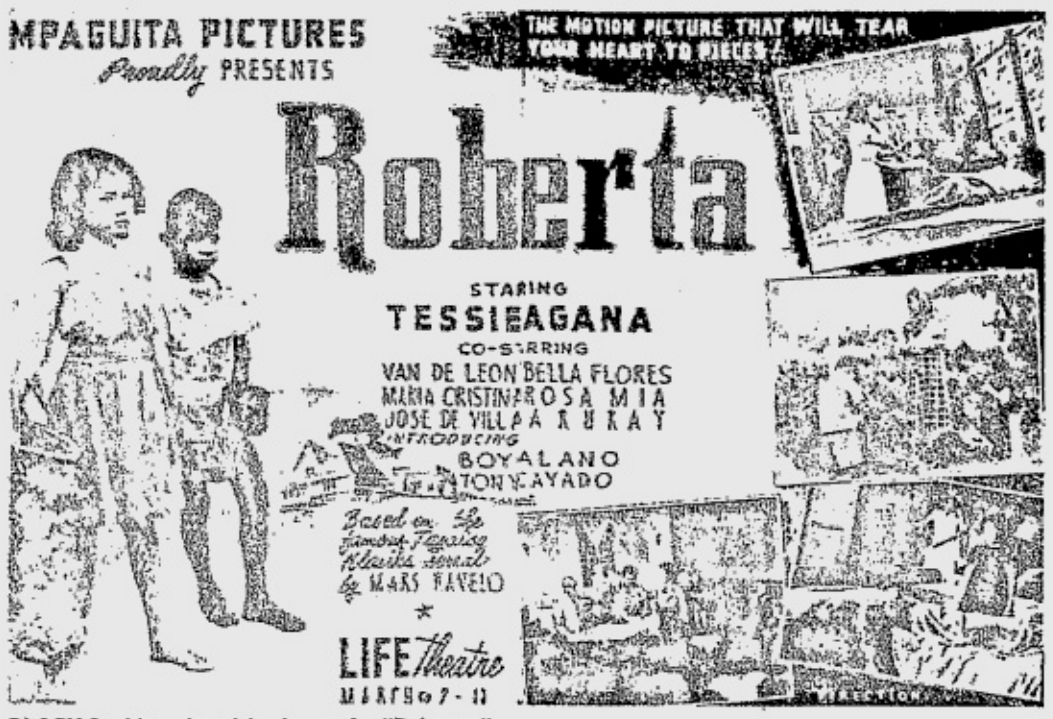
From page A32

ally digitalizing them. That's transferring them to betacam and having them cleaned, removing the dirt, enhancing the film, making the sound more audible."

Still, the process costs more than what Lilibeth could afford to pay.

Buying back the lost films meant tons of money for Lilibeth. Sometimes, she would pay P10,000. The highest she's ever paid for a film was P40,000. But for "Roberta," Lilibeth would pay a more substantial amount, provided it's a clear copy of the film adaptation of the Mars Ravelo novel.

"But it has to be a clear copy of Roberta," she says.



BLACK & white advertising layout for "Roberta."

Rubia Serbios

The first hundred films were the easiest to recover, according to Lilibeth. But it is an '80s Lino Brocka film, "Rubia Serbios," starring Vilma Santos, Phillip Salvador and Mat Ranillo, that has frustrated Lilibeth the most.

"The copy we have is so bad that we couldn't even convert it into Betacam," she says. "At that time, it was only Betamax format that is available in the market. The film itself is full of dirt and scratches and even if it's transferred into another format, all this would be there too."

But a real find was a Japanese-produced movie done during the occupation. "Voice of Freedom," obviously a Japanese propaganda, had Fernando Poe Sr. in a starring role, according to Lilibeth's mother Azucena.

She claims her family had no knowledge of the movie. She recalls that during the war, the Japanese took control of Sampaguita studios.

"Fortunately, my mother had the intuition to keep all our equipment in the basement of our house," she says. "But they still made a movie and advertised it as a co-venture with Sampaguita films."

After the war, it was business as usual for Sampaguita.

"The first movie we produced after the war was the one which starred Carmen Rosales," says Azucena. "Don't ask me for its title. I forgot. Remember, I am now 86 years old."

Unfortunately, there are no more copies of that Carmen Rosales movie, which could have been a defining moment in Sampaguita's history.

In the 1951 fire, all Sampaguita films made before that went up in smoke. "Roberta" was the first movie Sampaguita produced after the fire.

"It earned so much money then—about P10,000 to P15,000 a day," recalls Azucena. "At that time, orchestra tickets were selling for only 50 centavos. There was only one first run theater in the whole of Manila—Life Theater. Sampaguita and the other top three producers could only run movies there for 10 days. That was our agreement. So whether the movie was a hit or a flop, we had to finish its run after 10 days."

A GROWN-UP Tessie Agana, with cousin Marichu Vera-Perez in the '60s.

MOTHER and daughter team of Azucena Vera-Perez and Lilibeth Perez-Nakpil. TERRY HEARSEY

300 films missing

More than 300 Sampaguita films are still at large, according to Lilibeth.

"Nobody really thought that they could be priceless," Lilibeth admits. "At that time, Manay (Ichu, the eldest child) and I thought that after television, the movies would no longer generate income. Nobody knew that video would come."

Maintaining a film vault could also be very expensive. But with the advent of digital technology, pay-per-view channels, high-frequency channels, cable channels, the expense might be worth it.

"Well, it was actually through the cable channels that I was able to retrieve most of our films and build our library," says Lilibeth.

Thanks to then new graduate Renee Alvarez, Lilibeth was able to start her archive.

"She had a big crush on Luis Gonzales," says Lilibeth. "That was her obsession—create a catalogue of Gloria-Luis movies. She would painstakingly steam pasted pictures and ad layouts to remove them from whatever they were pasted on. But she's now working in the national archives of Australia."

History has a price

History has its price, and Lilibeth has no way of paying for it—yet.

"For a black and white, restoration would cost you about P300 to P350 thousand per film. I'm talking about more than 200 films right now. So it's an exercise in futility. The best that I could do is have them transferred to U-matic tape and enhance the imaging of the film. It costs me from P25K to P28K per film. So try to figure out how much that would cost for all the films I have right now. We're talking a fortune here."

We're also talking about a legacy.

Unique viewing experience

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

OLIVIA Lamasan's "Milan" is a unique viewing experience because it combines drama, romance and social commentary (on the lives and travails of Filipino workers in Italy). This ambitious combination makes the film a "should see" in our book.

Its story centers around the search of a young man (**Piolo Pascual**) for his wife (**Iza Calzado**), who has "disappeared" in the city of Milan after working there for sometime.

Piolo enters Italy illegally to look for Iza, but is completely frustrated by the initial difficulties he experiences. It's a good thing that a street-wise Filipina (**Claudine Barretto**) takes him under her wing and helps him in his search.

As expected, their relationship eventually turns romantic, but the movie continues to interest itself in the lives of other Filipino workers in different parts of Italy. In time, Claudine is able to track Iza down, and her story limns the darker, sadder side of our national diaspora to diverse sweatshops abroad.

Another complication develops when Piolo takes Claudine's help for granted after finding a "better" job in a factory, which he thinks gives him the right to look down on other Filipinos in Italy who are "trapped" in more menial jobs.

The lovers' relationship further deteriorates when her brother also makes it to Italy and boorishly intrudes into their shared life together.

These and other conflicts generally get resolved by film's end. But what resonates most memorably when all is said and done isn't the movie's love element, but its insights into the complex problem of the OFW ethos as it impacts on us, both nationally and personally.

Thus, we credit Lamasan for her appreciation of the importance of the exodus of our workers abroad. She also gets an improved performance from Claudine, although Piolo resists all energizing importunings and remains at his signature "morose" level.

Other plus factors: the movie's arresting cinematography, rinsingly beautiful Italian vistas, outstanding technical elements, and good use of the Italian milieu in its plot.

On the debit side, the movie is too long, it has several false endings, dramatic scenes are generally too loud and declarative, and the production's combination of love, personal drama, social comment and travelogue elements is sometimes ungainly.

But "Milan" remains a viewable film that we should patronize, because it goes beyond the facile love gambits of the usual Valentine's Day movie, and sheds light on a national problem whose consequences are more crucial and far-reaching than they are generally perceived to be.

You can now vote for your favorite song for the Himig Handog Love Songs (Love The Second Time Around) Choice Awards. Here's how:

TEXTERS' CHOICE:
Type HIMIG (space) ENTRY NUMBER (space) YOUR NAME and send to 2366

LISTENERS' CHOICE:
Call 1-908-1-HIMIG2 and follow the voice prompts for instructions

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Fill up the coupon/ballot found inside the HIMIG HANDOG LOVE SONGS CDs and cassettes and send to Himig Handog Secretariat 2/F ABS-CBN Broadcast Center Sgt. Esguerra cor. Mother Ignacia Ave., QC. You can win 10,000 cash plus other prizes just by voting, so grab a copy of the album now!

Announcement of winners will be on the Finals Night on March 5, 2004

• NOW AVAILABLE ON CDs AND CASSETTES

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 3785, Series of 2003

Travel and Tourism Fair

BAYANG Barrios and **Bituin Escalante** will sing Filipino songs at the opening of the "Pagdiriwang: Sining at Paglikha," Travel and Tourism Fair at 3 p.m. today at the Carousel Court of Festival Supermall in Alabang. **Roeder Camañag** is emcees the event.

'City by the Sea'

"CITY by the Sea" tells the gripping tale of a dedicated police officer who discovers that the main suspect in the murder case he's investigating is his own son. Starring **Robert De Niro, Michael Caton-Jone's** film will be screened at 9 p.m. on Cinemax today.

'Asya 2004'

THE CULTURAL Center of the Philippines has just launched an important festival that we should all support and patronize.

"Asya 2004" (Kaanak, Kaligiran, Katutubo) is the CCP's significant effort to reestablish artistic links between the Philippines and the rest of Asia, bonds which have been eroded by the overwhelming "invasion" of western pop culture that has watered down the region's unique cultural strengths and identity.

Performances to look out for include:

Feb. 15, "Kulintang & Debussy," a concert in honor of National Artist for Music **Jose Maceda.**

Feb. 20-March 7, "Hudhud" (An Ifugao Romance).

Feb. 21-22, "Sari-Saring Sayaw, Samang Galaw."

Feb. 23- 25, Dance Group from Okinawa.

Feb. 26, "Samu't-Saring Tinig," a concert of the best children's choir.

Feb. 28, UST Symphony Orchestra

There will be other "Asya 2004" performances in the succeeding months. Aside from shows, the CCP's Asian focus for the year will be strengthened by exhibits, screenings and fora:

Feb. 17-March 25, "Sungduan," an exhibit showcasing the works of visual artists from all over the country.

Feb. 24, "Sine Asya," the best of Asian cinema, highlighting the early works of our national artists for film.

Feb. 20, Sine Taktakan, a forum on Politics and Pinoy Media.

We congratulate CCP President **Nes Jardin**, Artistic Director **Nanding Josef** and Associate Artistic Director **Chris Millado** for the important cultural initiative that is "Asya 2004." More significant treats have been lined up for March and April, which we'll detail before the end of February. Call the CCP at 821-1125.

Sta. Cecilia Band

RIZAL Park's "Concert at the Park" at 6 p.m. today features a performance by the Sta. Cecilia Band of General Trias, Cavite. Guest vocalists are **Thea Perez** and **Ronan Ferrer.**

'Hart's War'

"HART's War," starring **Bruce Willis**, will be screened at 9 p.m. today on Star Movies. The film is set in a German camp for prisoners of war.

GMA Artist Center in full gear for 2004

SHOW TIME

HEAD of GMA Artist Center Yda Henares has began charting the career paths of her roster of talents, barely a month into the Chinese New Year.

Herase has spearheaded the production of the new Artist Center Image Plugs, which was launched last Jan. 18 at "S.O.P." and S-Files. The talent center will showcase the homegrown talents of GMA.

"I am very proud to say that the Artist Center has grown and still continues to grow," Henares said. "Now I have a wide variety of talents. If you need action stars, stars for drama and comedy or sexy stars, we have them. If you're searching for talents who embody credibility and integrity, GMA Artist Center also has them."

Artists like Sunshine Dizon, Chynna Ortaleza, Iza Calzado, TJ Manotoc, Angel Locsin, Brad Turvey, Greg Turvey and Valerie Concepcion, as well as the rest of GMA Artist Center's homegrown talents, have gradually penetrated the show biz circuit and have carved a name for themselves in various media—magazines, television and movies.

But Henares and the rest of her Artist Center team ensures that sleeping giants within their GMA talents will be awakened and developed. Discoveries with the most potential will undergo an intense acting workshop conducted by the Directors Guild of the Philippines (DGPI) and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

"The network is making a huge investment in these artists and that is precisely why we all believe that they should be handled by only the best—the best directors both from the film and theater industry in this country," Henares said.

The Image plugs can be seen in "Frontpage," "Unang Hirit," "Sis" and other shows where talents appear regularly.

Direk Mark Reyes used colors to depict the different moods and emotions to showcase the talents and individuality of the GMA artists.

Brian McKnight makes a U-turn

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez
Contributor

AFTER 16 years of consistently topping the world's music charts with his music, multi-platinum singer, songwriter and producer Brian McNight has thought of dropping everything and leading a simple life away from the limelight.

"I was like putting out a record every day," says McNight. "I felt burnt out because for the last 10 years, I was like going and going and going...I was always away from my family."

Success took its toll on his family, his marriage suffering because of his constant globe trotting for performances around the world. And at one of the lowest point in his life, the 33-year-old McKnight thought of just sitting back, dropping his music and just "be a dad" to his kids.

"All I wanted to do at that point in my life was to be a dad to my eldest son than to be a superstar," says McKnight.

While the world perceives him as "squeaky clean," McKnight admits that he's made mistakes in his life.

"The whole 'nice guy' image has been projected onto me, especially since I was married and had kids," says McKnight. "And part of that is true. But now I want to tell the whole story and not leave things out. Now, my children are older and they sort of understand things a lot more. My relationship with them is very solid—they know they can come to me for anything."

McKnight's career was also not spared by turmoil in his personal life.

"I thought I was gonna retire. But later I realized that instead of bowing out, I was gonna make a u-turn and try to do really good," he says.

MCKNIGHT: Sings songs that are very Filipino.

That decision set the mood for McKnight's latest album, U-Turn.

SHOW STOPPER

"I wanted this to be something different. The songs tell about the things that maybe I regret or perhaps wanted to change, especially with the lead single, "Shoulda, Woulda, Coulda" and "Sorry," he says.

In a way, some of McKnight's songs are very Filipino in sentiment.

"I realized that Filipinos are very romantic. I was just so overwhelmed the first time I performed here," he observes.

Last Friday, McKnight performed with the popular boy-band Boyz II Men at the Ultra Open Grounds.

Sabay nating hulaan ang kumanta ng WRR jingle!

ABS-CBN WRR101.9 For Life jingle guess who?

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*Each message costs P2.00 for postpaid and P2.50 for prepaid subscribers.
*You only need to register once for the whole duration of the promo.

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Choose a picture message at sagutin ang tanong na
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PROMO PERIOD: 15 – 28 February 2004

Winners will be electronically drawn on 29 February 2004 and will be announced on ASAP MANIA.
Available to Globe, Touch Mobile, Smart, Talk 'N Text and Addict Mobile subscribers.

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Per DTI NCR Permit Number 0444 Series of 2004.

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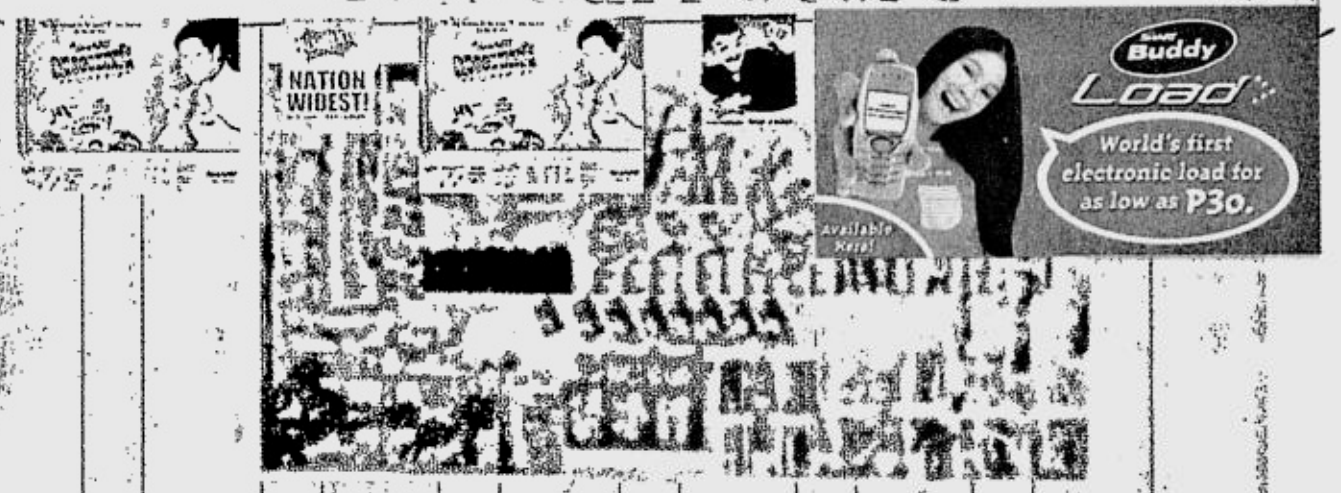


Elvie will now have her own SMART Load Center thanks to Choose Your Dream

Living the Dream:

SMART Winner Texts Her Way To A New Business

With a few texts sent to a cousin in a foreign land, Elvie Siong was just sharing pleasantries with a loved one. Her cousin Alex is an overseas foreign worker in Saudi Arabia, and Elvie communicates with him regularly thanks to SMART International Text. If someone had told Elvie, a 43-year old employee of Manila Teachers Savings and Loan Association in Cavite, that she was about to make a lifelong dream come true thanks to something as simple as texting, she might have thought that person was crazy. But dreams do come true in Elvie's case.

Elvie typed DREAM, sent it to 232, and used one of SMART's value-added services, namely SMART International Text. Within a few weeks, she made a lifelong dream come true. Long dreaming of owning her own business, this wife and mother of three chose the Business Showcase offered for January, ownership of her own SMART Load Center. Thanks to SMART Choose Your Dream, it also served as the best birthday gift Elvie has ever received: she just turned 43 last February 6 and was told she was a winner on February 5. A birthday wish come true if ever there was one!

It really is that simple to join Choose Your Dream. After texting DREAM to 232, every P15 you spend on any or a combination of SMART's products and special services earns you a raffle ticket. Every time you make IDD calls, send international texts, use MMS, or download from StarTXT, TNT Chismis, Music Link, Cinema Club, Music Link, Zed and other SMART services, you earn more raffle tickets towards your dream showcase.

You too can make your own dream come true because there's one last raffle to go. For the draw to be held on February 16, you can still win a brand new BMW Z4 sports car for the Adventure Showcase, the luxurious BMW 520i in the Luxury Showcase, or opt for the Business Showcase of a fleet of 5 Mitsubishi Adventure GLXs.

All it took for Elvie Siong was a few texts to a cousin thousands of miles away. A few texts, a little luck, and some prayers went a long way in fulfilling not just a birthday wish but a dream as well. There are a myriad number of ways to still earn those raffle entries, so what are you waiting for? Text DREAM to 232 and choose your dream now!

When Elvie Siong used SMART International Text,she had no idea she was about to make a dream come true

Elvie truly had an unforgettable 43rd birthday courtesy of SMART Choose Your Dream

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

ENTERTAINM

Desperately seeking 'Roberta'

Classic 1951 tearjerker last seen about 30 years ago

By Nini Valera

THE 1951 tearjerker "Roberta" saved Sampaguita Pictures from bankruptcy when it broke existing box-office records at that time.

The movie, about a young girl's fight for survival and search for love, made child actress Tessie Agana into a superstar, two decades before the term was invented.

Produced on a shoestring budget, with most of the stars and production staffers donating their services to help save Sampaguita Pictures from financial ruin after its studios were razed by fire, the movie became bigger than life and cemented Tessie Agana's stardom in Filipino film history.

But the movie, last seen as a scratchy black and white film with hardly audible sound in local free TV about 30 years ago, is missing.

Sampaguita Pictures does not have a copy of the movie in its vault, which, even without "Roberta," is a gold mine in local film culture and Pinoy pop history.

But the fifth child of seven children of the late Dr. Jose A. Perez and Azucena Vera, now 86, has taken it upon herself to look for "Roberta."

Lilibeth Vera-Perez, who was a child actress herself, is on top of the search for "Roberta."

In 1986, Lilibeth, 50, returned to the Philippines, shattered from the death of her daughter in the US. The full story, she says, would be in a book about her father's legacy to Philippine movies, which, hopefully, would be released in October this year.

"I was so depressed when I returned," she relates. "I gave birth in the States, and my baby had contracted some kind of virus that killed her. She was my first child, and she lived for only a week."

She was also broke. While taking a walk on the streets where the Sampaguita compound is located in San Juan, Lilibeth noticed several boys who were scavengers, buying loads of film from the studio warehouse.

"I asked the people manning the warehouse if they were buying negatives that were already destroyed," she narrates. "When they told me the boys were buying old black and white films that were already deteriorated for their silver content...and they were buying by the cartload...it struck me that all our films were literally going down the drain.

What to do with legacy

Lilibeth swears that she then heard her father's voice telling her: "What are you doing to my legacy? It's about time you did something about it."

With the P5,000 she had in the bank, Lilibeth put up her office and asked the boys who worked for the studios to clean the cans of films she had found in Sampaguita's vault. There were only 20 films. In it's heyday, the studio produced a total of 617 movies, spanning at least five decades before and after the war.

"I didn't know how to start," confesses Lilibeth. "I started looking at our contracts. I also looked at the vault and the 20 films there. I knew I needed money, lots of it. But I didn't want to burden my mother or the studio with it. So I gathered the best films and had their containers cleaned. They were in rickety, rusty tin cans."

In the process, the P5,000 Lilibeth had in her bank was wiped out.

She then thought of calling Ricky del Rosario of Viva Films. Del Rosario, who was then in charge of acquiring video rights for existing films, offered to buy from her the films for P25,000, double what the outfit paid for other movies' rights.

"From the 20 films I had in the vault, Ricky was able to choose 12, which were all in color," recalls Lilibeth. "At that time, I didn't have black and white films in the vault yet. He bought 'Eva Fonda, 16,' 'Dyezebel,' some Nora-Tirso...The sale brought me P300,000, which became my seed money for the Sampaguita archives."

Sequestration Queen

Lilibeth used the money to search aggressively for other Sampaguita movies.

"I hired moles. I looked through our contracts and I was able to trace some of our films in television stations that had leased them for airing. Some I traced in a warehouse in Manila. My father was probably guiding me."

The biggest haul was from the warehouse, which yielded about 100 films, some of them produced by Sampaguita's rival LVN studios owned by the De Leon family.

"I went with a team of policemen to raid the warehouse," Lilibeth narrates. "At that time, Cory (Aquino) had just been installed into the presidency. A lot of Marcos properties were being sequestered.

"The owner of the warehouse gave me a difficult time. But I had all the legal documents in order and could prove my ownership of these films. He did not resist and eventually returned all the films we found in his warehouse, including some movies made by LVN.

"On hindsight, I am thankful to him because he at least kept them. They were merely stored on shelves, but they were kept. If he did not, I wouldn't know what would have happened to them.

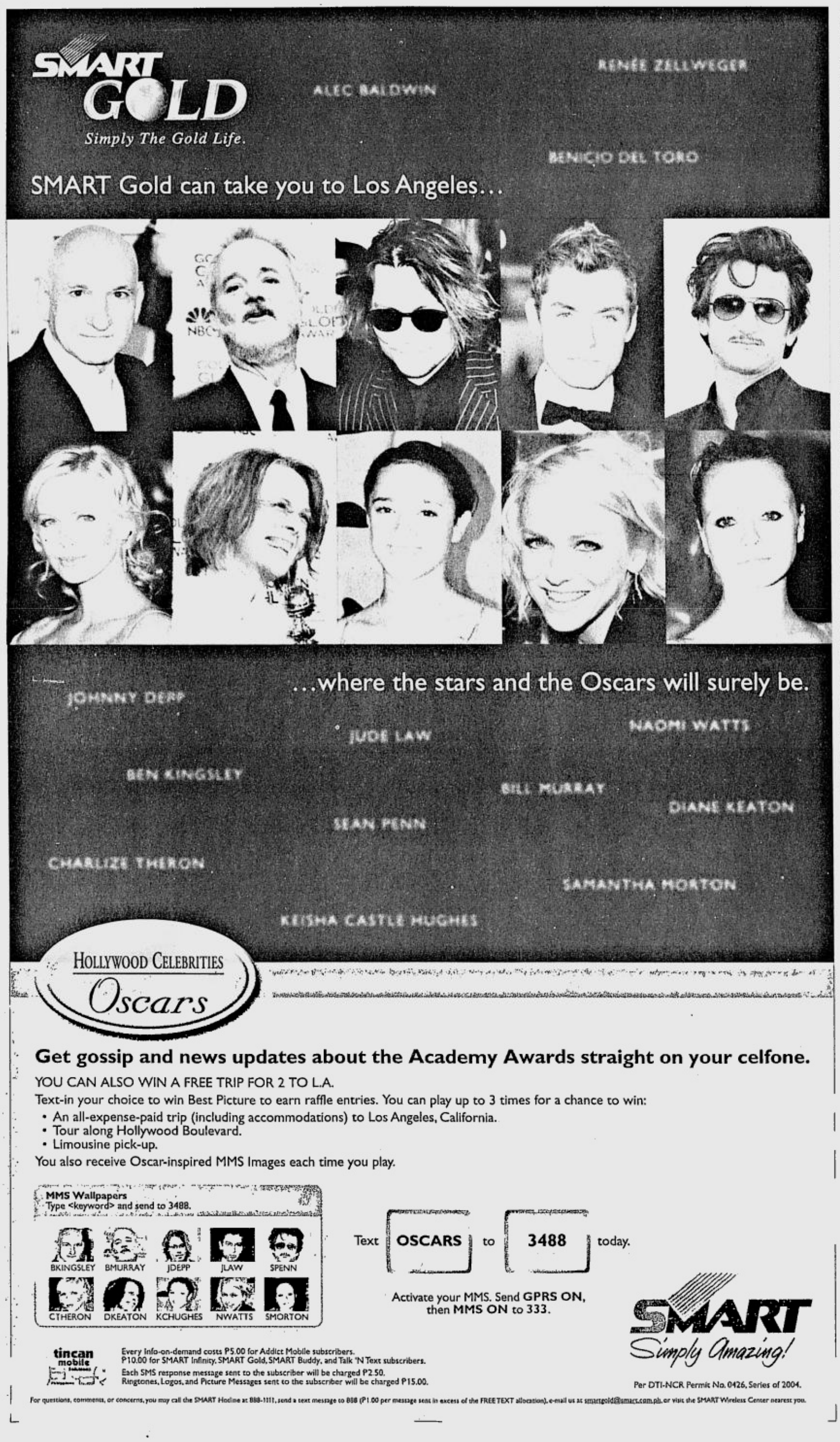
Channel 9 then began to rent old Sampaguita movies from Lilibeth for airing in the afternoons. From the rental, she was able to buy back more Sampaguita movies, which were found in the most unlikely places.

The next hurdle was how to preserve these movies, which were in a state of decay.

It costs at least P2 million to digitalize one movie. Even if Lilibeth could get funding from the government from time to time, the money for restoring the all of the movies could never be raised in this lifetime, she says.

"I was so desperate for money I wanted to call Ted Turner who digitalized those MGM films and ask him to help me restore our movies," says Lilibeth. "No, I didn't call him. I did the best I could for the films without actu-

DESPERATELY/ A30



Sunday BIZ

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor
Margie Quimpo-Espino

'I was in the right place at the right time'

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

SALVADOR today

WHEN he was a high school student at the Ateneo de Manila, Diosdado C. "Ding" Salvador would always walk on the left side of the road that stretched from the gate to his building.

No, it was not because he was safety conscious. Rather, it was so that his classmates won't see him walking.

FIRST JOB

Ding's father was with the military, "one of the few honest men" and was earning only P300 a month. They were so poor it took his father a month to save up for a pair of long pants for Ding to wear to school. Ding only had one pair to wear from Monday to Thursday. Friday was wash day.

"By the end of the month, the pants would fade to white (from khaki)," he recalls.

It was his mother who insisted that he stay at the exclusive and expensive Ateneo and it was also his mother who produced the extra money to make sure that her eldest son got a good education.

"He stays, even if I have to go to Quiapo to beg just to see Ding finish high school at the Ateneo" was his mother's statement when his father suggested that he transfer to a public school.

Today, Ding is president of Johnson & Johnson Asean. The position makes him responsible for the development, control, profitability, growth and efficient management of 10 markets—Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Brunei.

Driving at 13

Not bad for a boy who had to learn to drive at 13 so he can bring his mother to the Marikina market at 3 in the morning, buy fresh meat, fish and vegetables, and sell these in a *sari-sari* store she set up in front of their house in Cubao.

"My mother earned P20 a day in the early '60s—P600 a month or double what my dad was earning," says Ding.

Ding says he was just an average and quiet student in high school, so much so that some of his contemporaries would be probably surprised if they knew where he is now.

He had inclinations to join the military but his father told him, "I would rather see you end up as a janitor than a military man."

And so it was a business course for him. Half of his classmates at the Ateneo went to De La Salle, then the best business school in the country.

Since he had aspirations to become a lawyer, he took up a Liacom degree in La Salle, which gives a graduate dual degrees—one in liberal arts and the other in commerce. He pursued political science and business management.

Ding finally shone in college but only after a rough start.

He failed 15 units in his first year, just three units short of being expelled. The principal then, Ariston Estrada Sr., told him to "better go to the La Salle extension."

Ding found out later that Estrada referred to the Adamson University, the new home for many of those driven out of La Salle.

Scared by the prospect of being expelled, Ding worked doubly hard and did well. He would occasionally be on the Dean's list. Out of the 160 students in his class, only 69 graduated.

He became active in extra curricular activities. He was a member of the track team for four years and became very active in the debate team. He became La Salle's top debater in Filipino.

Then, one day, he and his friends at La Salle chanced upon a recruitment line in school and decided to submit their applications. He gave one to the Philippine Refining Co. (PRC), now Unilever, but did not feel good about his chances.

DING worked in one of the car retail shops in the US during the '80s. He said it took a year to remove the traces of dirt and grime from his hands.

But he made it. On May 16, 1969, he was hired as a management trainee for P450 a month plus P45 for his cost of living allowance.

He first heard about Unilever as a young boy, when sales agents from PRC would deliver goods to the *sari-sari* store that his mother tended.

These agents became friends with the young boy and they encouraged him to study hard so that he could join the company one day.

"By 1977, those same sales agents reported to me," Ding says.

He was moved to brand management in 1971 and one of the products that he handled was Lifebuoy. He recalled that Lifebuoy used to look like a piece of brick and the image badly needed changing. What he and his team did was to change the color and shape and Lifebuoy eventually sold well.

DING Salvador 56 years ago

But his biggest brand was Superwheel, which he supervised as group product manager.

"The bar became No. 1 and at one time, contributed 50 percent to PRC's revenue," Ding says.

Moving to sales

It was after the success of Superwheel that Ding decided to try his hand in sales.

He worked hard at it, especially after his request to attend an advertising course in London was rejected.

"In three years we broke records in sales," he states.

Partly due to the rejection, Ding accepted an offer by Richardson Vicks in 1980 to become its general sales manager. He was given over P25,000 a month, a driver and a car.

But Ding says those were his "dark days." He did some things, which he regretted later on. He left after 17 months.

After being jobless for a few months, Colgate Palmolive Phils. called him. He was recommended by a colleague, Boy de Claro, who later on became J&J's marketing director. At Colgate, he was made export manager.

This was in the '80s when the country was in the firm grip of a foreign exchange crisis following the Aquino assassination in 1983. Companies learned to generate their own dollars.

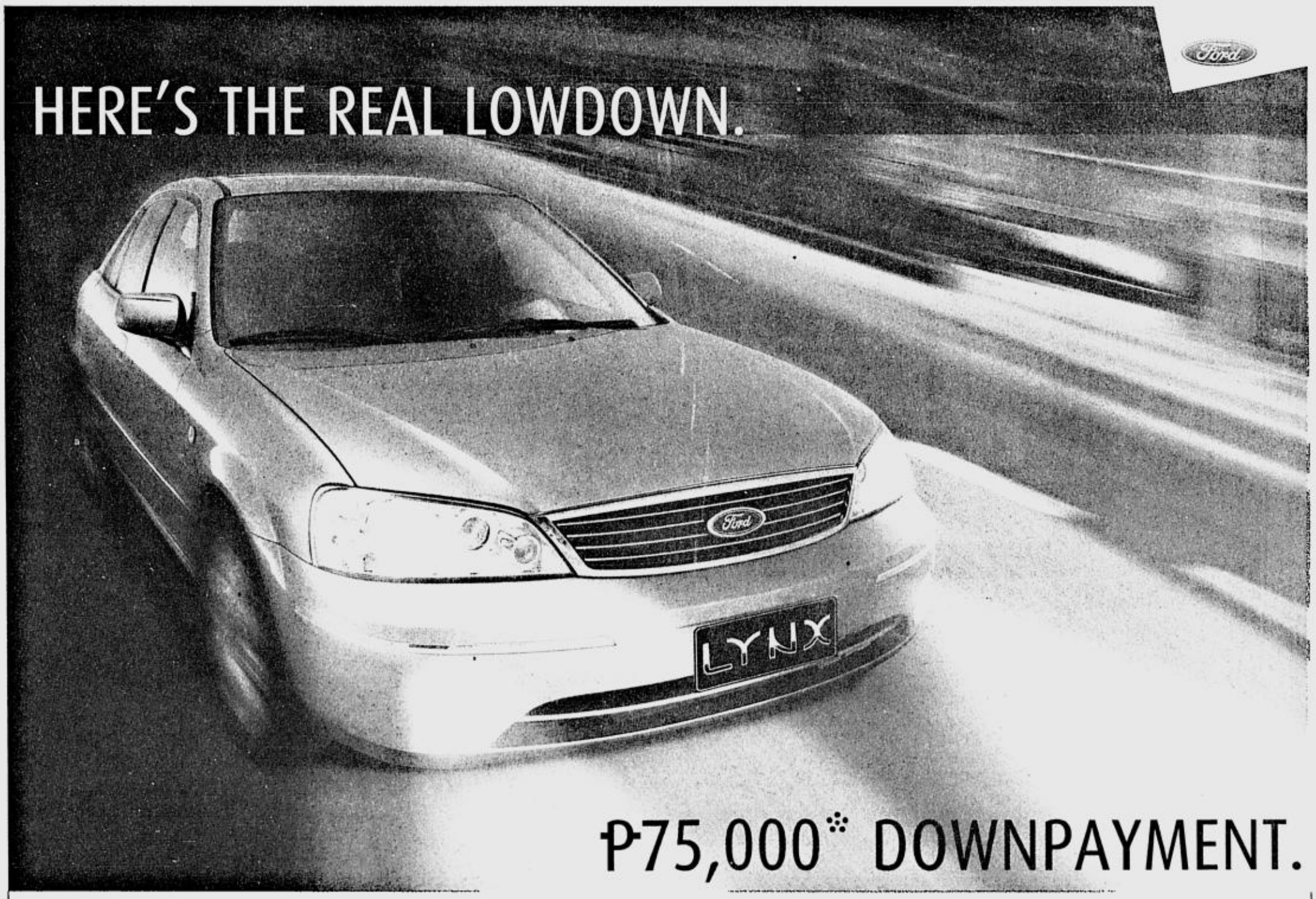
Feeling that the political situation would not improve, he sent his family to the US. He sold all his property to start them off on their new life.

"Colgate-Palmolive was good to me. They would send me to the US twice a year so I could visit my family," he says.

Living in America

In 1984, he decided to follow his family to the US. Ding had no work for nine months and relied on his savings.

I WAS/ B2



Getting the youth to take charge of nature

By Corrie Salientes-Narisma

(Second of three parts)

THE FIVE Filipino students sent by Bayer AG to Germany last year to represent the country in its Young Environmental Envoy exposure trip are not lacking in environmental awareness and concern, for the seeds of love for nature have long been sown in them.

But Bayer and the young envoys know that mere awareness and concern are not enough to make a difference in saving and protecting the environment.

Thus, the Bayer Young Environmental Envoy Program saw to it that each of the envoys would, after undergoing the program, have their concrete action plans to pursue in the near-term.

The exposure trip to Germany not only served as an eye-opener for them. It also sought to challenge and inspire them to work hard to put their plans into action.

It seems to be working. A brief chat with the envoys—Diana Mallari, Bernard Albano, Gilbert Hamera, Cristopher Rhett Alger and Reginald Andal—a month or so after the trip showed that not only have they started their work, but they took it upon themselves to do more, like advocating their mission and luring others into joining their ranks as stewards of the environment.

THE ENVOYS—(from left) Gilbert, Rhett, Bernard, Janna and Reginald—take a closer look at the operations of a Bayer facility.

Challenge, inspiration

The waters hold a special place in Janna Mallari's heart, being deep into marine ecosystem protection efforts herself. She is the president of the Marine Ecosystem Council of the University of the Philippines.

A reef ranger and licensed scuba diver, Janna is a member of an underwater team pursuing a clam seeding project called "Seven Thousand Clams for Seven Thousand Islands," the flagship project of MEC which aims to re-seed endangered giant clams in the country.

Janna came to realize her calling to work for the environment during an earlier MEC basic ecology course in Aurora Province.

For her action plan, which was the basis for selecting the delegates to Germany, Janna diversifies into a sustainable tourism project, which she thinks is her field of expertise being a tourism student.

Her mission is to spearhead the development and promotion of Barangay Ditumabo in Candelaria in San Luis, Quezon, into a sustainable tourism zone. The area is home to Mt. Danayag and a waterfall big enough to generate energy for a mini-hydro power project.

The beauty of this barangay, which she became familiar with in the course of her research work for a book project on Aurora Province, has already been attracting visitors and Janna thinks tourism activities will increase in the area soon.

She knew it could be a threat to the environment, particularly to Mt. Danayag and the waterfall, so she made it her action plan to reverse this threat and make tourism a boost to the environment and to the people in this barangay.

Janna said she would tap MEC, the local government units, certain nongovernment organizations and the UP students.

She said she would need a budget of P230,000 and that certain institutions—such as Conservation Internationale, the New Zealand government and the LGUs, could be tapped to help fund the project.

Her action plan looks too ambitious and the tasks ahead seem huge but Janna, drawing inspiration from what she learned from Germany particularly about Rhine River, is convinced it can be done.

Realization

Like Janna, 20-year-old Bernard Benjamin P. Albano is into marine ecosystem protection and preservation efforts in Batac, Ilocos Norte. Bernard is a BS Biology student of the Don Mariano Marcos State University in Batac.

He is a member of the Biological Circle and the Environmental Science Society in his school and is actively involved in his school's Coral Reef Transplantation Program, and an underwater and coastal clean-up activity in Badoc Islands, the southernmost town of Ilocos Norte.

He joined the BYEE search upon the prodding of his mentor Henedine Aguinaldo.

The Rhine River restoration also made a mark on Bernard. He was quick to add that the exposure trip to Germany was an eye opener for him.

"For one, I was surprised to find out that there are really companies that pursue environmental and corporate social responsibility projects beyond what are required by the state," he said.

Bernard found the whole experience inspiring. It strengthened his belief in his own mission and his conviction to pursue his BYEE action plan.

"It gave us big ideas on how to do it back home."

Bernard's 'Scubasurero'

Bernard is pledging his commitment to a marine ecosystem restoration activity back home through "Scubasurero and Coral Transplantation" in Badoc Islands.

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GETTING/ B5

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Master in Business Administration MBA

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Mrs. Norma A. Baluca
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Center for Testing and Measurement
Ateneo de Zamboanga University
Tel. No.: (062) 9910871
Fax No.: (062) 9910870

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Nationwide Exam: March 6, 2004
Local Exams: February 21, 2004 • March 20, 2004
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Please send me information about the programs I have checked below:

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'I was in the right place ...

From page B1

"I was not young anymore. I was in my late 30s. I like America but I don't like working there," he says.

He became a store manager trainee for Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. and after one month, he was running a store. He was eventually appointed to run several service stores.

"But the most difficult job in America is running a retail store. You repair cars, you change oil. It got to a point where I would rather clean the bay and the toilet than face the customers," Ding says.

American consumers are known to be among the toughest in the world. And running a retail service center meant facing complaints every hour.

Ding says that when his father visited him and saw him cleaning the bay, he cried. But that was not the end of Ding's career in management.

In the late '80s, he got a call from a headhunter in Hong Kong. He was told that they had been tracing him for months and asked if he was interested in coming back to the Philippines.

A few days after the call came, a limousine picked him up to bring him to the airport. He flew first class to New Brunswick where he was interviewed.

On April 10, 1989, Ding made the bold decision to come home after five years in the US with only $200 in his pocket.

Although he was earning over $3,000 in the US at that time and his wife was also working, he says it just was not enough to pay for mortgage and raise three kids.

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Ding is the first to admit he is not brilliant. "But I worked hard and I got good breaks—I was in the right place at the right time."

When he retires, Ding will teach and start a foundation that will mold the young to become better marketers and sales people. And that is another story.

ACHIEVING one of his dreams—getting an Agora award; with wife Evelyn and children Dino and Nikki

DING (extreme left) in the '70s

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Getting the youth to take charge of nature

By Corrie Salientes-Narisma

(Second of three parts)

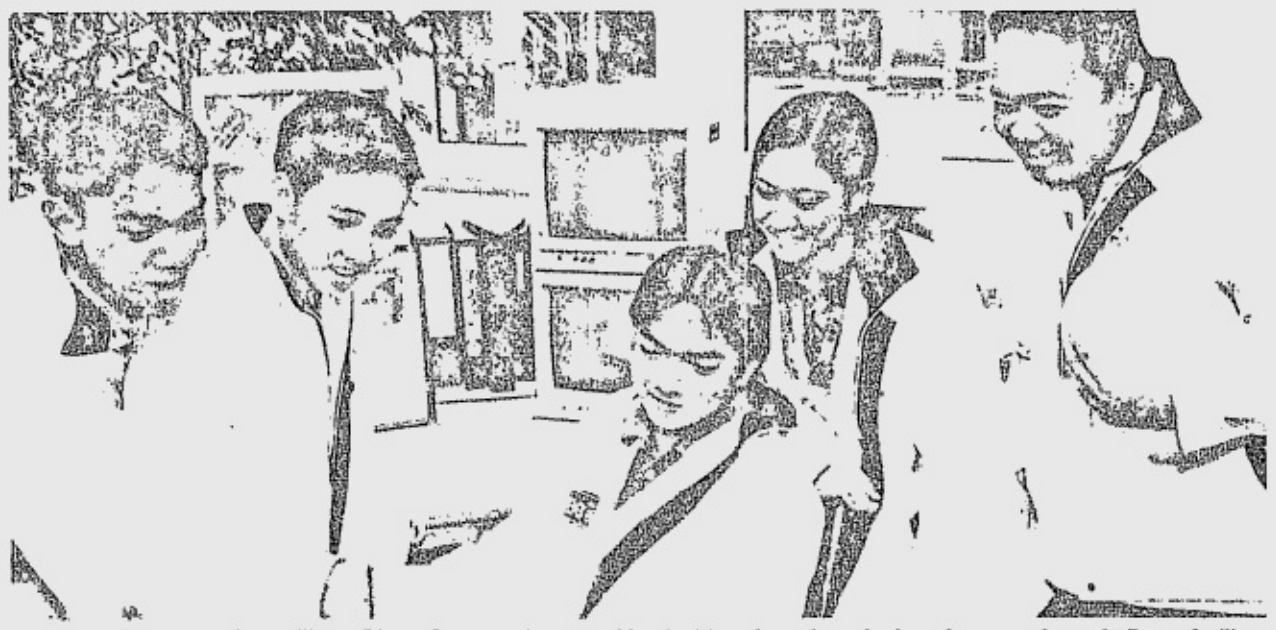
THE FIVE Filipino students sent by Bayer AG to Germany last year to represent the country in its Young Environmental Envoy exposure trip are not lacking in environmental awareness and concern, for the seeds of love for nature have long been sown in them.

But Bayer and the young envoys know that mere awareness and concern are not enough to make a difference in saving and protecting the environment.

Thus, the Bayer Young Environmental Envoy Program saw to it that each of the envoys would, after undergoing the program, have their concrete action plans to pursue in the near-term.

The exposure trip to Germany not only served as an eye-opener for them. It also sought to challenge and inspire them to work hard to put their plans into action.

It seems to be working. A brief chat with the envoys—Diana Mallari, Bernard Albano, Gilbert Hamera, Cristopher Rhett Alger and Reginald Andal—a month or so after the trip showed that not only have they started their work, but they took it upon themselves to do more, like advocating their mission and luring others into joining their ranks as stewards of the environment.



THE ENVOYS—(from left) Gilbert, Rhett, Bernard, Janna and Reginald—take a closer look at the operations of a Bayer facility.

Challenge, inspiration

The waters hold a special place in Janna Mallari's heart, being deep into marine ecosystem protection efforts herself. She is the president of the Marine Ecosystem Council of the University of the Philippines.

A reef ranger and licensed scuba diver, Janna is a member of an underwater team pursuing a clam seeding project called "Seven Thousand Clams for Seven Thousand Islands," the flagship project of MEC which aims to re-seed endangered giant clams in the country.

Janna came to realize her calling to work for the environment during an earlier MEC basic ecology course in Aurora Province.

For her action plan, which was the basis for selecting the delegates to Germany, Janna diversifies into a sustainable tourism project, which she thinks is her field of expertise being a tourism student.

Her mission is to spearhead the development and promotion of Barangay Ditumabo in Candelaria in San Luis, Quezon, into a sustainable tourism zone. The area is home to Mt. Danayag and a waterfall big enough to generate energy for a mini-hydro power project.

The beauty of this barangay, which she became familiar with in the course of her research work for a book project on Aurora Province, has already been attracting visitors and Janna thinks tourism activities will increase in the area soon.

She knew it could be a threat to the environment, particularly to Mt. Danayag and the waterfall, so she made it her action plan to reverse this threat and make tourism a boost to the environment and to the people in this barangay.

Janna said she would tap MEC, the local government units, certain nongovernment organizations and the UP students.

She said she would need a budget of P230,000 and that certain institutions—such as Conservation Internationale, the New Zealand government and the LGUs, could be tapped to help fund the project.

Her action plan looks too ambitious and the tasks ahead seem huge but Janna, drawing inspiration from what she learned from Germany particularly about Rhine River, is convinced it can be done.

Realization

Like Janna, 20-year-old Bernard Benjamin P. Albano is into marine ecosystem protection and preservation efforts in Batac, Ilocos Norte. Bernard is a BS Biology student of the Don Mariano Marcos State University in Batac.

He is a member of the Biological Circle and the Environmental Science Society in his school and is actively involved in his school's Coral Reef Transplantation Program, and an underwater and coastal clean-up activity in Badoc Islands, the southernmost town of Ilocos Norte.

He joined the BYEE search upon the prodding of his mentor Henedine Aguinaldo.

The Rhine River restoration also made a mark on Bernard. He was quick to add that the exposure trip to Germany was an eye opener for him.

"For one, I was surprised to find out that there are really companies that pursue environmental and corporate social responsibility projects beyond what are required by the state," he said.

Bernard found the whole experience inspiring. It strengthened his belief in his own mission and his conviction to pursue his BYEE action plan.

"It gave us big ideas on how to do it back home."

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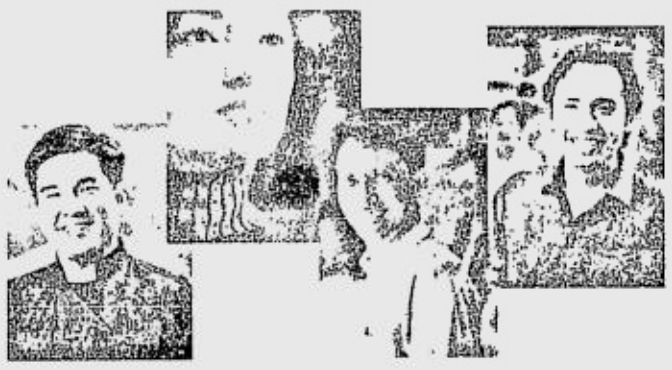

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AIM ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT [illegible] Makati Philippines

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From page B1

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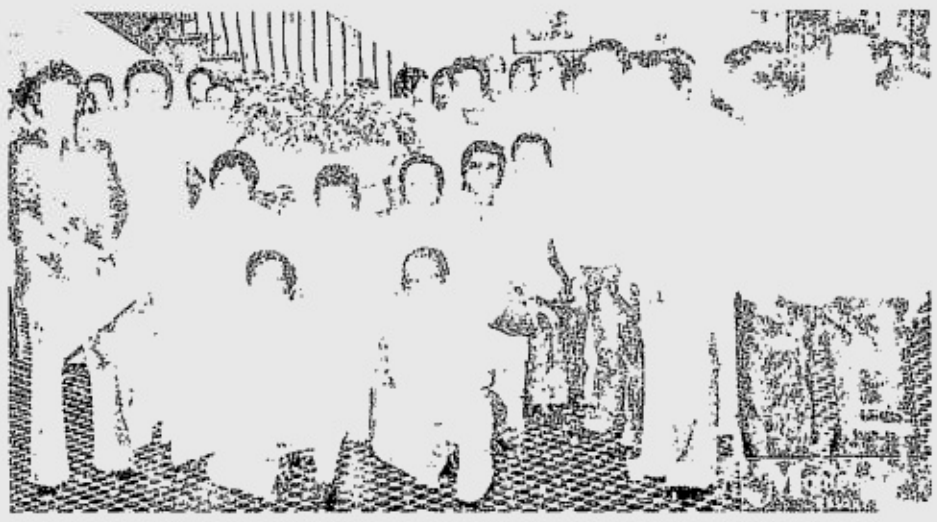

DING (extreme left) in the '70s

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Building a platform of integrity in companies

By Dante M. Velasco
Contributor

"Absolute Honesty"
By Larry Johnson & Bob Phillips
American Management Association, 2003

EXECUTIVE READ

"HONESTY," intoned singer Billy Joel onto a higher octave, "is such a lonely word;/ Everyone is so untrue./ Honesty is hardly ever heard,/ Mostly what I need from you."

Of course, Joel's song of lament or supplication is an appeal for his beloved to be true to her word, to "tell it like it is" or to be (that overused word) "transparent." And yet, honesty is really hard to come by. It's a virtue "devoutly to be wished," to use a Shakespearean phrase.

For example, one presidential candidate had said a mouthful that he was "honest." For him "honesty" is admitting a misdemeanor when confronted with it.

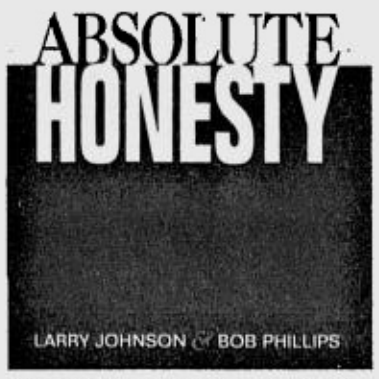
Another presidential bet is being pilloried because the candidate reneged on a promise not to run. Of course, as handlers put it, events have compelled the candidate to make a turnabout.

And then we have a candidate, a neophyte in the political arena, who is steadily gaining votes, because voters have decided to make the switch, since they have already become exasperated with the staple of politicians: double-speak.

In the corporate world, whose activities and decisions are largely hidden from view, "honesty" is fast becoming a favorite topic.

Ethical behavior among firms has become a burning issue lately, especially with a trail of misrepresentation by giant corporations, a sad tale of window-dressed financial figures—and even a tragic consequence following official decision to conceal the truth of a defective instrument in a space rocket.

BUILDING A CORPORATE CULTURE THAT VALUES STRAIGHT TALK AND REWARDS INTEGRITY



Standard of conduct

"Absolute Honesty," the title of this featured book, looks as if it is an unattainable standard of corporate conduct. And yet the book's authors declare that honesty is the key to a vibrant organization, a pool of committed employees and outstanding market performance.

"Honesty does pay," the book points out, "and that creating a culture of straight talk and integrity not only keeps the media at bay, but also makes an organization more competitive in the global economy and better trusted by customers, employees and shareholders."

Elegantly written, helped by quotes by literary giants to introduce each chapter, the book brings us, first to the need for honesty in interpersonal encounters within the corporation—prescribing a "culture" that gives premium to truth telling. "The worst truth is always better than the best lie," the authors said, convincing us about their unshakable devotion to truth.

The book offers six laws for propagating honesty—and then making it part of corporate culture: Tell the Truth, Tackle the Problem, Disagree and Commit, Welcome the Truth, Reward the Messenger, and Build a Platform of Integrity.

One chapter each is devoted to every law in this 292-page book, peppered with illustrations culled from the consulting and coaching work of this writing duo.

We thought that avoiding confrontation is exclusive to the Asian psyche but, in this book, the authors tell and re-tell stories where employees in the Western Hemisphere choose to be silent rather than be confrontational.

Refreshing insights abound in this book, especially when the authors take issue with prevailing thoughts. For example, they don't agree with a "win-win solution" because it compromises the best course of action. They also don't recommend the "sandwich approach"—where you "sandwich" the bad news with the good news. "It sounds phony," they argue.

Need to disagree

The need to disagree is also discussed, and the book suggests a nonthreatening question such as: "How would you like me to disagree with you?" Earlier, debaters had to "agree to disagree."

Why bother about disagreement? The book illustrates with many stories that the truth or the right solution emerges when there is "creative tension."

General Electric's Jack Welch, IBM's Lou Gerstner, Intel's Andy Grove encourage their teams to "disagree and commit"—with very positive results. The authors recommend creating "debate groups, reversal of roles, and devil's advocacy" to bring out the best ideas.

In a section titled "Welcome the Truth," the book offers the Personal Styles Grid that shows four quadrants: Inside the quadrant are the analyzer, director, harmonizer and energizer. The book also offers a guide on how to deal with these personality types.

"Killing the messenger" is the usual response of managers when they receive bad news. We must reward the messenger, not kill him, the book says. Sometimes the messenger does the reporting badly or even irritably, but listen to him anyway, because the truth must come out, the authors say.

The book recommends "building a platform of integrity," quoting Martin Luther King: "The time is always right to do what is right."

Finally, it recommends building "an ethical infrastructure ... anchored firmly on a corporate culture which rewards and encourages honesty for relationships within and without the corporation." Honesty: a lonely word? Not if we practice "absolute honesty within the corporation." *(dantemv@i-next.net)*

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Honda dominates the motorcycle market

HONDA Philippines, Inc led the local motorcycle industry in 2003. Already the industry leader in 2002 with total sales of 84,464 motorcycle units, Honda improved its sales record by a substantial 54 percent in 2003, achieving sales of 130,376 units. This was a noteworthy feat, especially since four of the company's competitors failed to better their 2002 sales performance in 2003.

Indeed, Honda's share of the Philippine motorcycle market improved to 52.0 percent in 2003, higher than the 37.8 percent share it had in 2002. This amounted to a 14 percent increase in market share for Honda. Four of Honda's competitors actually experienced a decrease in market share in 2003 from their previous share in 2002.

Honda credits its industry-dominating performance to an aggressive marketing campaign, and to its initiatives revolving around its S.E.T. campaign in 2003. S.E.T. stands for Safety, Environment and Technology, and is representative of Honda's multi-pronged agenda for the past year. In the realm of safety, the company implemented its S.M.A.R.T. Start (Safety Measures, Advice & Riding Tips) safety riding program, promoting safe and responsible riding among new owners of Honda motorcycles. In the arena of environmental consciousness, Honda lead in manufacturing motorcycles that passed Euro 1 emissions testing. Euro 1 is a world standard in measuring the cleanness of vehicular emissions. All Honda motorcycles in the Philippines have passed Euro 1. In the area of technology, Honda introduced new products in its TMX 125 and Dream 125 motorcycles, as well as new developments for its XRM 110 Dual Sports and Wave 125 motorcycles. Honda also launched a campaign promoting its Wave Alpha motorcycle.

Four Honda models led the local motorcycle market, landing in the highest four of the top 10 slots in sales for 2003. Leading the pack at the top slot was the Honda XRM 110 Dual Sports, which garnered total sales of 38,054 units in 2003, for a 114 percent increase over the 17,799 units sold in 2002. Coming in second was the Honda TMX 155, with sales of 33,650 units in 2003, which amounted to a 28 percent increase over the 26,240 units sold in 2002.

The Honda Wave 125 made third place with 24,848 units sold in 2003, a 35 percent increase over the 18,358 units sold in 2002. Fourth place went to the Honda Wave Alpha, which garnered 24,402 units in sales in 2003, improving over the 6,794 units sold in 2002 by 321 percent.

All in all, the motorcycle market's total volume in sales for 2003 was 250,904 units, rising 12 percent above the 223,287 units in 2002.

Honda Philippines, Inc. is the pioneer in 4-stroke motorcycles in the country.

ESTANISLAO DONATION APPRECIATED

A plaque of appreciation was awarded by Dr. Frederick Ruiz, president of Wag-Wag Club to former barangay captain Ruben Estanislao of Barangay Libis, Science City of Munoz, Nueva Ecija for being one of the principal sponsors in the celebration of the 54th anniversary of Wag-Wag Club last Dec. 27. Estanislao has been a long time member of the club and the first ever to donate $2,000 for hiring the Gloria Gatmaitan Orchestra to enhance the success of the festivities. Estanislao, a resident of Brentwood, California since 1977 is represented here by his nephew, engineer Rodrigo Pangilinan (gentlemen in black pants). Others sponsors shown are all balik-bayans.

CPM SOCIETY OF THE PHILIPPINES INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS

The Certified Professional Marketers (CPM) Society of the Philippines recently held the induction of new members at Hotel Inter-Continental Manila. CPM Society of the Philippines president Julie Lim (4th from right) swears in the CPMs' new members. Others in photo are (from left) Hermie del Rosario, PMA-VP for education and research and internal auditor, Dr. Leonardo Garcia Jr., Rafael Villanueva, Umberto Lombos, Donald Lim, Millette Zamora, Alfredo Panizales and Dennis Gutierrez.

AAP HOSTS BENEFICIARY PARTY

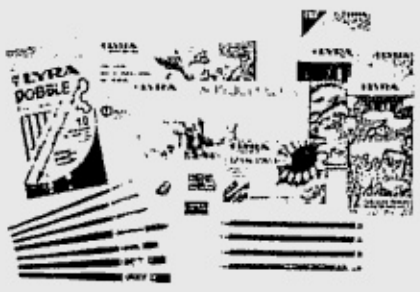
The American Association of the Philippines (AAP), a non-profit organization looking after the needs of distressed American citizens residing in the Philippines, hosted its annual holiday party for its beneficiaries. The event was held on the grounds of Holy Trinity Cathedral in Makati City and attended by more than 60 beneficiaries. Chairperson for the event was AAP trustee Leslie Ann Murray. Among the special guests was US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone Jr. During the event, the AAP also provided free influenza vaccinations to its beneficiaries. Pictured are (2nd row, from right) AAP member Karina Fuston; Serge Grynkewich, AAP president and SOS managing director; Bud Melvin, AAP vice president and social welfare chair; (1st row, from right) Johnny Sinon MD, medical director of International SOS; AAP manager Shirley Fajarito, and Odyssa Ordanez, RN, of Glaxo-Smith-Kline. The association raises funds for its various projects by hosting various events throughout the year. Its next event is the annual George Washington Ball which will be held on Feb. 21.

PASAY CITY HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI HOMECOMING

Alumni from Class 1952 to 1968 will hold their homecoming on Feb. 21, starting from 1 p.m, at the school campus, FB Harrison St. This year's honorees are Class 1954 (Golden), 1959 (Sapphire) and 1964 (Ruby) jubilarians. For further information, call Ligaya Balgos at 831-9916, Adelina Mayor-Cruz at 833-8369, Linda Domingo-delos Santos at 843-2029 and Tess Sampang at 831-6653. Shown are the core group from class 1956 to 1960 who met for the preparation of their alumni homecoming.

ProductFILES

Lyra launched in the Philippines



MERIT Inc, one of the largest manufacturer of paper products, school and office supplies in the country launches Lyra, a quality line of colored pencils and other innovative products. Founded in 1806, the Lyra factory is the oldest pencil factory in Nuremberg, Germany. Lyra has been awarded the "spiel gut" (good toy) award for particularly suitable pencils for children. All Lycra pencils bear the CE sign for conformity with the European Standards. The Lyra exclusive product line carries colored pencils, oil pastels, colored markers, colored cake sets, art brushes, drawing pencils and modeling clay and will soon be available at leading bookstores, office supplies centers and specialty stores nationwide. For further inquiries, call Merit Inc at 812-6506.

SM BOWLING AWARDEES

SM Bowling Center recently awarded the top bowlers for Perfect Games. Shown in photo are Viking Bowling Club's Eddie Bautista and Julian Gan, SM Bowling Cup's Rogelio Enriquez and RP Team's Christian Suarez. Bautista and Gan received Free 300 games for perfect games while Suarez was awarded a Lifetime Free Certificate of Free Games and Rogelio Enriquez received P100,000 for the perfect game in the Third Bowling Cup. The SM Bowling Cup is ongoing until April 2004. Prizes include P15,000 for the Monthly Center Finals and P100,000 in cash for the National Finals Champion plus a Nokia phone.

THE CMC SKIN CENTER

The Capitol Medical Center recently inaugurated the Skin Center as part of its mind and body approach to good health. The center is dedicating its services to IPL Photorejuvenation and Laser Hair Removal. It is equipped with the latest model of IPL Quantum SR and Light Sheer Diode Laser. Photo shows (from left): Dr. Evylina Guzman, Dr. Marilu Aquino, Dr. Joanne Gonzales, Dr. Cristabel Sy, Mila Drilon, Dr. Thelma Clemente (CEO), Joy Belmonte, Dr. Ma. Veronia Estrella (head) and Carmina Desales (COO).

AVON 25TH ANNIVERSARY BLOWOUT PROMO GRAND DRAW

Global beauty company Avon's year long anniversary celebration reaches a new high as 10 winners, out of close to 2 million entries, were picked during the recently held grand draw of the Avon 25th Anniversary Blowout Promo. The 10 winners are composed of 5 Avon Franchise Dealers (FD)/Certified Beauty Consultants (CBC) and 5 Avon customers. The grand draw was hosted by Eat Bulaga mainstay and comedienne Gladys Guevarra and Bb. Pilipinas International Jhezzarie Javier. DOH-BFAD representative Ana Bathan was present to validate the winning entries.

Calling all hearts

POWER Plant Mall's Valentine Festival, it's for lovers, friends, family, it's even for your family's friend's lovers. If you have a heart, this Valentine affair is for you. From Feb. 2 up to the 15th, the North and South Courts of the mall will play host to a smorgasbord of Valentine caboodles. Just to name a few, souvenir photos of you and your loved ones to be taken by Kodak, an array of perfumery to lighten the senses by Beauty Bar and PCX, sweets and chocolates by Confiserie and Cadbury, Valentine souvenirs, balloons, and that unmistakable Valentine trademark: flowers by Holland Tulips, Designer Blooms and Berland to warm the heart. If you want to add spice to your Valentine "look" Henna artists and face painters will give you exactly what you need.

Valentine Offers from Sogo

SOGO Home & Office Center, celebrates the Valentine season through its "Great Valentine Values" promo, which will run in all Sogo branches this February. Customers simply purchase the minimum amount of P1,500 on small appliance items or the minimum P2,000 for furniture buys to get a free inflatable throw pillow. Sogo also offers hefty discounts on its wide range of merchandise ideal for today's lifestyle. Various top-brand appliances are available at 0 percent interest through major credit cards. Various promotions are in effect for customers who will shop at any Sogo branch this month. You can join the "Your Place or Mine" raffle promotion for a minimum P1,000 purchase. At stake are home entertainment showcases and major appliances. You can even extend the appliance's warranty with Sogo's Warranty Plus option. Best of all, Sogo Home & Office Center remains customer-friendly with its daily promise of Everyday Low Prices. Visit the Sogo branch nearest you today. For details, please call: 867-2352; 850-3535; 632-0673; 647-8805; 935-8923; 911-5772; 230-4185 or 962-4185.

Valentine treats, freebies at Festival Supermall

VALENTINE'S at Festival Supermall in Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang is always a sweet affair. Favorite honeymoon destinations and "spa-mpering" treats await the lucky winners of Valentine Getaway raffle until Feb. 15. The raffle draw will be held on Feb. 18. Hershey's chocolates and other confectionery dream items are up for grabs in Sweet SurPrize, a pick-a-prize promotion from Feb. 13 to 15 at Chef's Avenue. Cineastes can win instant prizes until Feb. 15, 1 p.m. to 10 p.m., with every purchase of two Festival Cinema Gold or premier tickets and purchase of either one medium popcorn or food items worth P50 at the mall's hip cinema complex, Level 4, for its My Sweet Valentine promotion. Customers can also get a chance to win prizes at the Food Junction. Its Valentine Delight promotion runs until Feb. 29, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Enjoy the mall-wide Triple Weekend Sale on Feb. 13 to 15 as participating stores offer discounts of as much as 75 percent. For more information call 850-3514.

Get Double Rewards from Citibank

CITIBANK credit cards gives gives your weekends a romantic and exciting twist with its Double Rewards points promotion this Valentine season. The promotion is open to all primary and supplementary cardholders of Citibank Silver and Gold Visa and MasterCard, Shell Citibank MasterCard, Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa and Citibank Platinum Visa. Cardholders will earn double rewards points for all purchases charged to their Citibank cards until Feb. 15. Citibank Silver and Gold cardholders, and Citibank Platinum Visa members get double rewards points for every P30 spent. Shell Citibank MasterCard members earn double rebates, while Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa cardholders get double points for conversion to miles. For details, call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999.

A Designer Valentines

THIS Valentine season, Designer Blooms does not only have awide array of colorful fresh roses packaged in elegant boxes or containers, they also offer "Valentines Value Packages" with Hershey's Chocolates and lovable stuffed toys as well as charming balloons, arranged and made available at amazingly very reasonable prices. This will save a lot of effort from getting things at separate stores. And for a minimum purchase of P700 from Feb. 1 to 15, patrons get a free California Pizza Kitchen Valentine's coupon. Visit the Designer Blooms Shop nearest you.

Experience Verdana living

A NEW residential development is about to redefine the way of life in the Southas Community innovations Inc. (CII), an Ayala Land subsidiary, launches Verdana Homes Mamplasan. Young urban professionals, budding executives and entrepreneurs with their families are invited to glimpse this latest Verdana Homes project. The launch will take place at the Activity Center area of Alabang Town Center today. During the launch, guests will be ushered into different activities and examine the extent of Verdana Homes Mamplasan, as well as details of its features and amenities, in scale model and other diagrams inside the project visual tent. This 35-hectare residential subdivision is located in Biñan, Laguna. For more information, call hotline numbers 750-0484, 750-0471, 847-0551.

All About You's new host

THE CELEBRATION of femininity continues as GMA's All About You celebrates its first anniversary while simultaneously moving on to a new season and new host. All About You brings in acclaimed actress and soap opera star Lorna Tolentino. With Lorna at the helm, she will guide women from all walks of life in their journey to well-being through new segments that revolve around a woman and the important aspects of her life. Join Lorna every Sunday morning, starting today at 11 a.m. in GMA-7.

Getting the youth to take charge of nature

From page B2

decided to act now to preserve and ensure the security of Bauang River before it is too late.

It may not need massive rehabilitation for it is still healthy compared with other rivers in the country, but Gilbert says it definitely needs immediate attention to prevent its deterioration.

The "Ilog Para sa Kinabukasan," Gilbert's action plan under the BYEE program, aims to make Bauang River the model river in Northern Luzon.

The project calls for the creation of groups that will regularly monitor the river and its immediate surroundings, and initiate changes to make it safe and sound all the time.

Gilbert's immediate task is to get the youth involved in this lifetime commitment to Bauang River.

He is spearheading the move to mobilize them in various outreach programs for the river such as tree planting, clean-up drives and various competitions.

Gilbert knows that chemicals and nature can go together in harmony without the first threatening the very existence of the latter.

He chose the field of chemical engineering in pursuit of his goal to become an advocate of environmental protection and preservation.

"I knew that from this discipline, I could acquire numerous technical skills and knowledge that I can use for environmental protection and preservation."

Lifetime commitment

The challenge seemed so great for Gilbert that he decided he would need higher education in this field to meet them.

He is bent on pursuing a master's degree in environmental engineering knowing that Mother Nature needs more from people like him, and that he needs more knowledge to pursue his other big dreams.

One of these big dreams is the production of low-cost cobalt molybdate catalyst from spent catalyst of oil refineries, on which he initiated the conduct of a feasibility study. In simple terms, this means the recycling of what could be harmful waste catalysts into new catalysts that can be used again by the oil refineries.

Gilbert is a bit jealous about Germany having a lot of things that are used for the protection and preservation of the environment. But what he experienced and saw there has become an inspiration for him to exert more effort to compensate for the absence of capital-intensive facilities in his community and in the country, as a whole.

The trip made him realize what it takes to produce products such as fertilizers and pesticides the right way.

"During the trip, I came to learn the long process of coming up with simple products like fertilizers. For example, it takes Bayer eight years of extensive research and two years of testing before a kind of pesticide is released in the market," he said.

He felt sorry that in the Philippines, the government seemed too lenient to businesses, such that environmental protection is not strictly observed.

While his "Ilog Para sa Kinabukasan" is in process, Gilbert and ChElikasan spearheaded an air monitoring activity in Baguio City and busied himself with a campaign to get the youth into getting involved in environmental protection by organizing eco-seminars.

GILBERT

JANNA

BERNARD

His being the editor in chief of the school's official yearbook for the College of Engineering and Architecture gave him the opportunity to encourage the school's engineering departments to adopt their respective environmental programs.

The yearbook itself becomes an environmental advocacy instrument as it adopts the theme "Sustainable Future through Green Technologies Developed by Engineers." *(To be continued)*

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2 HAUNTED MANSION
3 MILAN
4 MILAN

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7763055

1 CHASING LIBERTY
2 HAUNTED MANSION
3 MILAN
4 MILAN

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1 MONA LISA SMILE
2 THE GRUDGE
3 MILAN
4 STUCK ON YOU

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1 MILAN
2 LAST SAMURAI
3 CHASING LIBERTY
4 WISHING STAIRS
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6 MONA LISA SMILE
7 HAUNTED MANSION
8 SHIRI
9 MILAN
10 A GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE

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1 MAGIC KITCHEN
2 HAUNTED MANSION
3 CHASING LIBERTY
4 MILAN
5 SHIRI
6 LAST SAMURAI
7 WISHING STAIRS
8 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
9 MILAN
10 A GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350740

1 SHIRI
2 A GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE
3 IN THE CUT
4 LAST SAMURAI
5 WISHING STAIRS
6 MILAN
7 CHASING LIBERTY
8 HAUNTED MANSION
9 MILAN
10 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
11 I AM DINA
12 BROTHER BEAR

SM CITY MARILAO

1 MILAN
2 MILAN
3 STUCK ON YOU
4 HAUNTED MANSION

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 MEMENTO MORI
2 RESERVED
3 MILAN
4 BROTHER BEAR
5 STUCK ON YOU
6 LAST SAMURAI
7 RESERVED
8 HAUNTED OFFICE

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1 I AM DINA
RESERVE-A-SEAT 6-61 6356000
2 MONA LISA SMILE
3 MAGIC KITCHEN
4 LAST SAMURAI
5 HAUNTED MANSION
6 PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN
7 SHIRI
8 WISHING STAIRS
9 MILAN
10 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
11 MILAN
12 MAGIC KITCHEN

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 HAUNTED MANSION
2 CHASING LIBERTY
3 MILAN
4 MILAN

SM CITY MANILA
5739240

1 CHASING LIBERTY
2 MONA LISA SMILE
3 I AM DINA
4 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
5 HAUNTED MANSION
6 LAST SAMURAI
7 A GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE
8 SHIRI
9 MILAN
10 WISHING STAIRS
11 MAGIC KITCHEN
12 MILAN

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1 MILAN
2 MILAN
3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 TWINS EFFECT
5 MONA LISA SMILE
6 STUCK ON YOU

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 HAUNTED MANSION
2 STUCK ON YOU
3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 BROTHER BEAR
5 MILAN
6 MILAN

SM CITY LUCENA
(042) 7108977-80

1 BROTHER BEAR
2 MILAN
3 MILAN
4 LAST SAMURAI

—THE—
PODIUM

1 HAUNTED MANSION
11:10 FS/11:30 MF/
1:25 / 3:20 / 5:15 / 7:10 /
8:10 / 9:05 / 10:35
LFS/11:00 LMF/
1:00 END

2 CHASING LIBERTY
10:20 FS/11:45
MF/2:00 / 4:15 / 6:30 /
8:45 / 10:45 LFS /
11:00 LMF / 1:00 END

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10:00am | New Short Works 2: Short Fiction
12:30pm | Faces of Famine and Boyce Ball
by Robert H. Lieberman
4:00pm | Riles by Ditsi Carolino
6:30pm | Edades by Nick Deocampo
9:00pm | Zamboanga by Eduardo de Castro

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G1 GLORIETTA 1
1 MILAN
2 CHASING LIBERTY
3 MILAN
4 HAUNTED MANSION

G4 GLORIETTA 4
1 HAUNTED MANSION
2 WISHING STAIRS
3 CHASING LIBERTY (THX, GUARANTEED SEATS, 12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30)
4 MONA LISA SMILE
5 MAGIC KITCHEN
6 MILAN
7 MILAN

GB1 GREENBELT 1
Art Film
1 SPANISH LOVE FILMFEST
2 MILAN 1:20 4:00 6:40 9:20
REPERTORY'S FAME
Feb. 15, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29
Mar. 6 & 7

GB3 GREENBELT 3
1 CHASING LIBERTY (THX, GUARANTEED SEATS, 1:20 3:50 6:20 8:50 11:20)
2 MILAN (THX, GUARANTEED SEATS, 2:20 5:00 7:40 10:20)
3 THE LAST SAMURAI (GUARANTEED SEATS, 1:50 4:30 7:30 10:30)
4 MILAN (GUARANTEED SEATS, 12:30 3:10 5:50 8:30 11:20)
5 HAUNTED MANSION (GUARANTEED SEATS)

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 MILAN (THX)
2 MILAN
3 CHASING LIBERTY
4 HAUNTED MANSION
5 MONAL LISA SMILE

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7 MILAN
8 MAGIC KITCHEN
9 BROTHER BEAR
10 WISHING STAIRS

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3 MAGIC KITCHEN

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2 MAGIC KITCHEN
3 CHASING LIBERTY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) HAUNTED MANSION
5 WISHING STAIRS

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2 GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE
3 IN THE CUT
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6 CHASING LIBERTY

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1 MILAN
2 HAUNTED MANSION

PREMIERE CINEMA
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THX
CHASING LIBERTY

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 LAST SAMURAI
2 KILL BILL

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 MILAN
2 HAUNTED MANSION
3 MOUNSTER SHARK
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
5 RESERVE
6
7 (DTS)
8 (DOLBY)
9 (DOLBY)

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 WISHING STAIRS
2 MILAN
3 MILAN
4 (DOLBY) IN THE CUT
5 MAGIC KITCHEN
6 (DOLBY) HAUNTED MANSION
7 (DTS) CHASING LIBERTY
8 DIABLO
9 GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE

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1 RESERVE
2 (DOLBY)
3 (DTS)
4 (DOLBY)
5

Gotesco Ortigas
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2 MILAN
3 (DTS) CHASING LIBERTY
4 LIBERATED
5 (DTS) HAUNTED MANSION

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4 MILAN
5 WISHING STAIRS

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1 MILAN
2 DIABLO

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center
MALL CINEPLEX 7
1 MILAN
2 MILAN
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) HAUNTED MANSION
4 (SDDS) CHASING LIBERTY
5 (DTS) LAST SAMURAI
6 WISHING STAIRS
7 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

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2 MILAN
3 (DTS EX) STUCK ON YOU
4 DIABLO

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 MILAN
2 THE GATHERING
3 HAUNTED MANSION
4 STUCK ON YOU

Cine Nepo
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3-SWEPT AWAY/MAID IN MANHATTAN
4 STUCK ON YOU

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2 MILAN
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Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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2 (DTS) MILAN
3 (DOLBY) HAUNTED MANSION
4 CHASING LIBERTY

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
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2 (DOLBY) HAUNTED MANSION
3 (DTS) CHASING LIBERTY
4 MILAN

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(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 TWINS EFFECTS
2 MILAN
3 (DOLBY) LAST SAMURAI

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 MILAN
2 MILAN
3 (DOLBY) DIABLO
4 (DTS) LAST SAMURAI

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795-3320
1 STUCK ON YOU
2 MILAN
3 MILAN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (DOLBY) PURI
2 DIABLO
3 HAUNTED MANSION
4 (DTS) MILAN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) HAUNTED MANSION
2 CHAISING LIBERTY
3 (DTS) MILAN
4 BIBINGKA
5 IN THE CUT

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
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1 CHASING LIBERTY
2 MILAN

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 HAUNTED MANSION
2 MILAN
3 CHAISING LIBERTY

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 THE GATHERING
2 BROTHER BEAR
3 (DTS) LAST SAMURAI
4 (DOLBY) MILAN

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel 520.8914
1 (DTS) RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 STUCK ON YOU
2 DIABLO
3 LAST SAMURAI
4 MILAN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 PURI
2 MILAN

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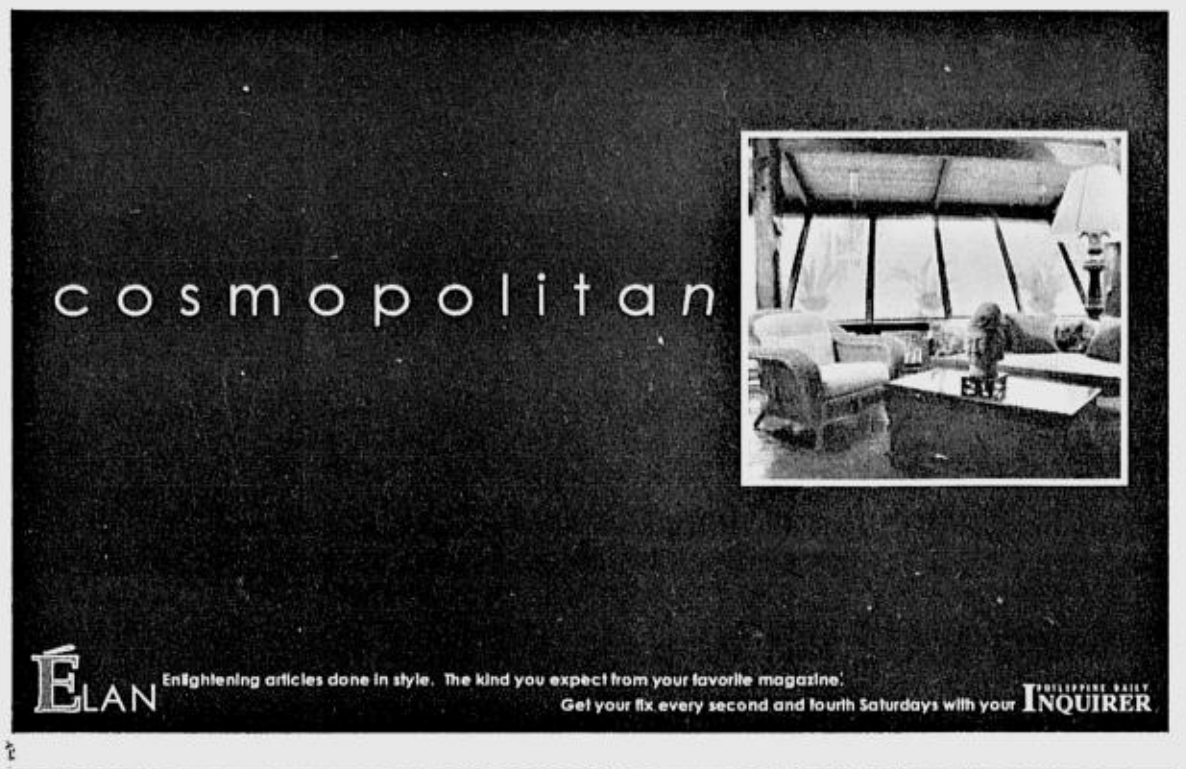

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13 BRITISH ACADEMY FILM AWARD NOMINATIONS INCLUDING BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR
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FEBRUARY 18
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BEST ACTOR BENICIO DEL TORO
BEST ACTRESS NAOMI WATTS

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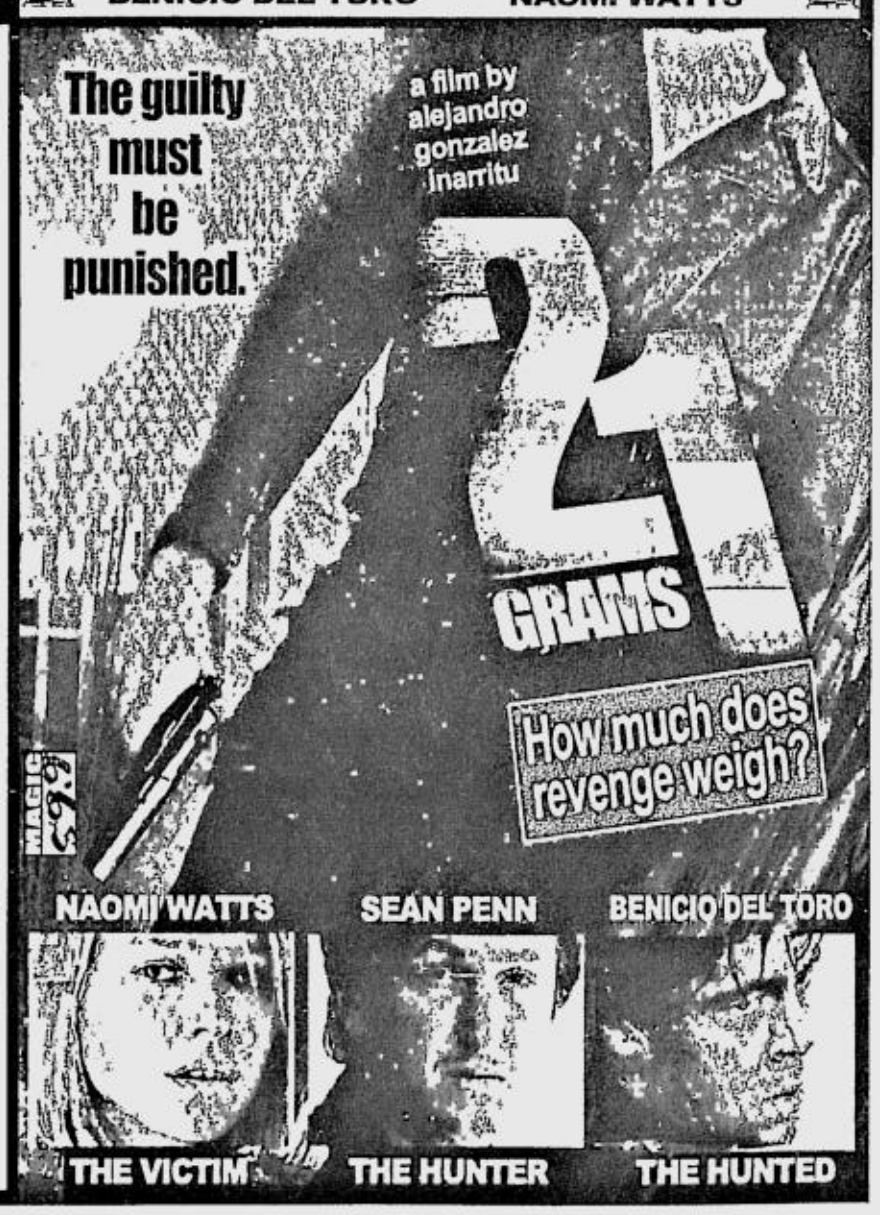
WINNER BEST FILM OF THE YEAR BEST ACTOR 2003 National Board of Review
WINNER BEST ACTRESS 2003 Online Film Critics Society
WINNER BEST ACTRESS 2003 Los Angeles Film Critics Association
WINNER BEST ACTRESS 2003 Chicago Movie Critics
WINNER BEST ACTRESS 2003 San Diego Film Critics
WINNER BEST ACTRESS 2003 Southeastern Film Critics
WINNER BEST PICTURE 2003 NY Online Film Critics
WINNER BEST ACTRESS 2003 Florida Film Critics
WINNER BEST ACTOR BEST ACTRESS 2003 Washington DC Film Critics



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2 MILAN 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50 DIGITAL
3 HAUNTED MANSION 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 DTS
4 MAGIC KITCHEN 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:10, 10:00 DIGITAL
5 CHASING LIBERTY 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50 DIGITAL
6 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20 DTS
7 A GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00 DOLBY
8 THE LAST SAMURAI 10:20, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 DOLBY
9 MONA LISA SMILE 10:55, 1:35, 4:15, 6:55, 9:40 DOLBY
10 WISHING STAIRS 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50 DOLBY
MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P100 THX cinema / P75 for one level cinemas

ERMITA 526-7185 / 536-7809 to 12
1 MILAN 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:50 DOLBY DIGITAL EX
2 MONA LISA SMILE 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40 DOLBY
3 GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00 DOLBY
4 WISHING STAIRS 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40 DOLBY
5 MAGIC KITCHEN 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50 DOLBY
6 HAUNTED MANSION 10:40, 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 8:35, 10:00 DTS
7 CHASING LIBERTY 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50 DTS

Big R Supercenter METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8260
1 MONA LISA SMILE 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00 DOLBY
2 HAUNTED MANSION 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00 DTS
3 MILAN 10:10, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00 DIGITAL
4 CHASING LIBERTY 10:25, 12:50, 3:35, 6:20, 9:05 DIGITAL
5 MAGIC KITCHEN 11:50, 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10 DIGITAL
6 WISHING STAIRS 11:50, 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10 DOLBY
7 MILAN 12:35, 3:25, 6:15, 9:05 DTS
8 GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00 DOLBY

Big R Supercenter NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW 935-3229 / 31
1 HAUNTED MANSION 11:00, 12:50, 2:45, 4:40, 6:35, 8:30 DOLBY
2 CHASING LIBERTY 11:20, 1:35, 3:50, 6:05, 8:30 DIGITAL
3 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 11:35, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 8:20 DTS
4 MONA LISA SMILE 12:00, 2:25, 4:45, 7:10, 9:00 DOLBY
5 MILAN 10:10, 11:55, 2:40, 5:25, 8:15 DIGITAL
6 GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE 11:35, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 8:10 DOLBY
7 WISHING STAIRS 11:35, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 8:20 DOLBY
8 MAGIC KITCHEN 11:20, 1:35, 3:50, 6:05, 8:30

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575
1 THE HAUNTED MANSION
2 MILAN
3 CHASING LIBERTY
4 MAGIC KITCHEN

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2 MILAN
3 CHASING LIBERTY
4 MAGIC KITCHEN

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3 CHASING LIBERTY
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5 MILAN

Big R Supercenter LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870
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2 THE LAST SAMURAI
3 IN THE CUT
4 THE WISHER
5 MILAN

Big R Supercenter DASMARIÑAS 852-2125
1 MONA LISA SMILE
2 MILAN
3 MILAN
4 CHASING LIBERTY
5 THE HAUNTED MANSION

Big R Supercenter STARMILLS 875-1927 / 961-5270
1 MONA LISA SMILE
2 IN THE CUT
3 MILAN
4 MILAN
5 HAUNTED MANSION
6 STUCK ON YOU

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1 HAUNTED MANSION
2 MAGIC KITCHEN
3 CHASING LIBERTY
4 GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE DTS
5 MILAN
6 WISHING STAIRS

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1 BROTHER BEAR
2 MILAN
3 STUCK ON YOU
4 SKY OF LOVE
5 THE TWINS EFFECT
6 THE LAST SAMURAI

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2 MILAN
3 HAUNTED OFFICE
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5 MEMENTO MORI
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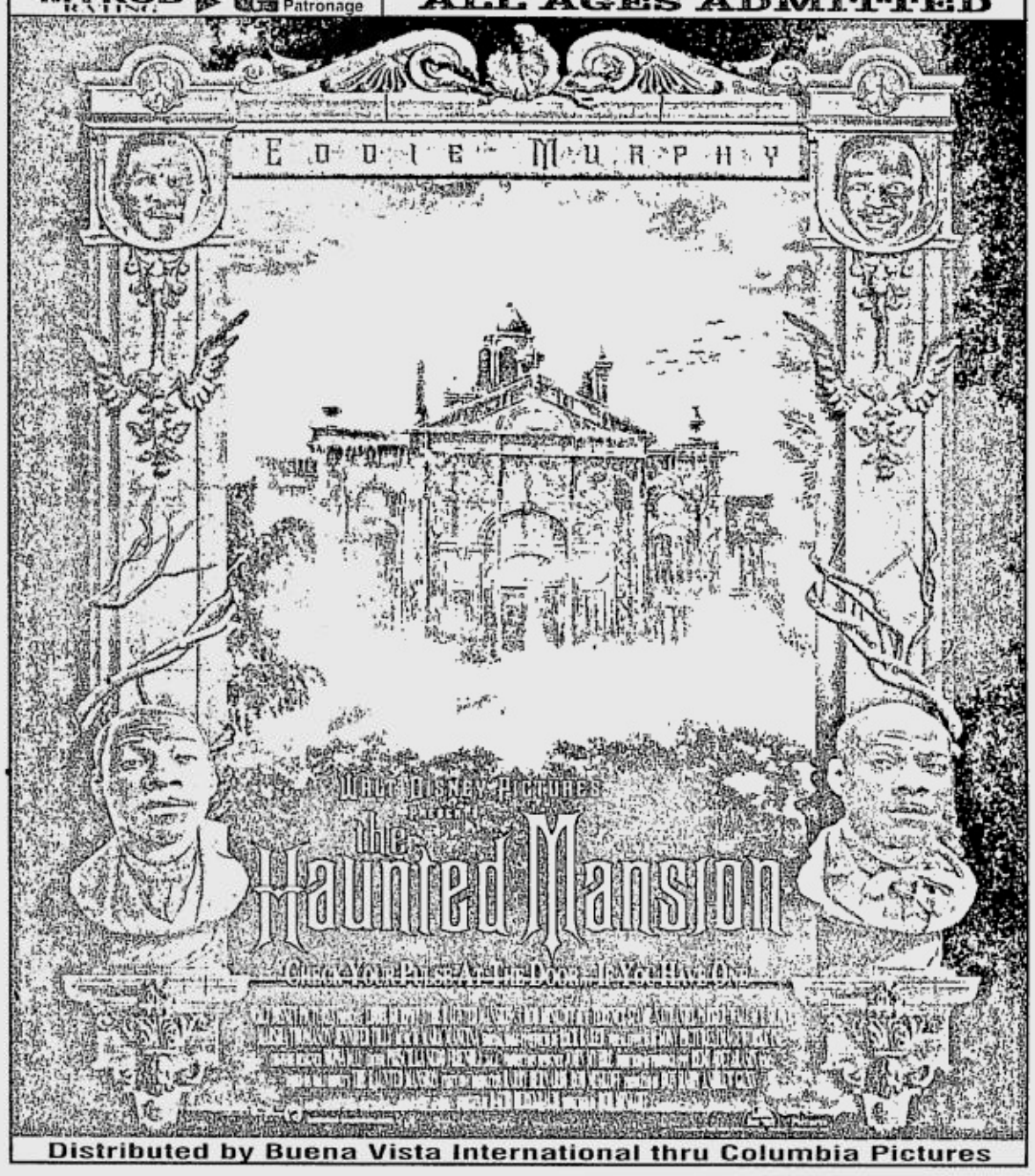

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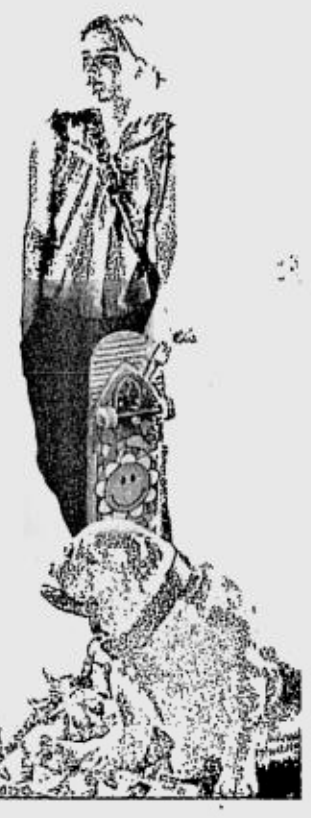

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1 MILAN
10:50, 1:40, 4:30
7:20, 10:10
PG-13

2 CHASING LIBERTY
11:20, 2:05, 4:50
7:35, 10:20
PG-13

3 HAUNTED MANSION
11:30, 1:30, 3:30
5:30, 7:30, 9:30
GP

4 MONA LISA SMILE
12:15, 2:55, 5:35
8:15, 10:50
PG-13

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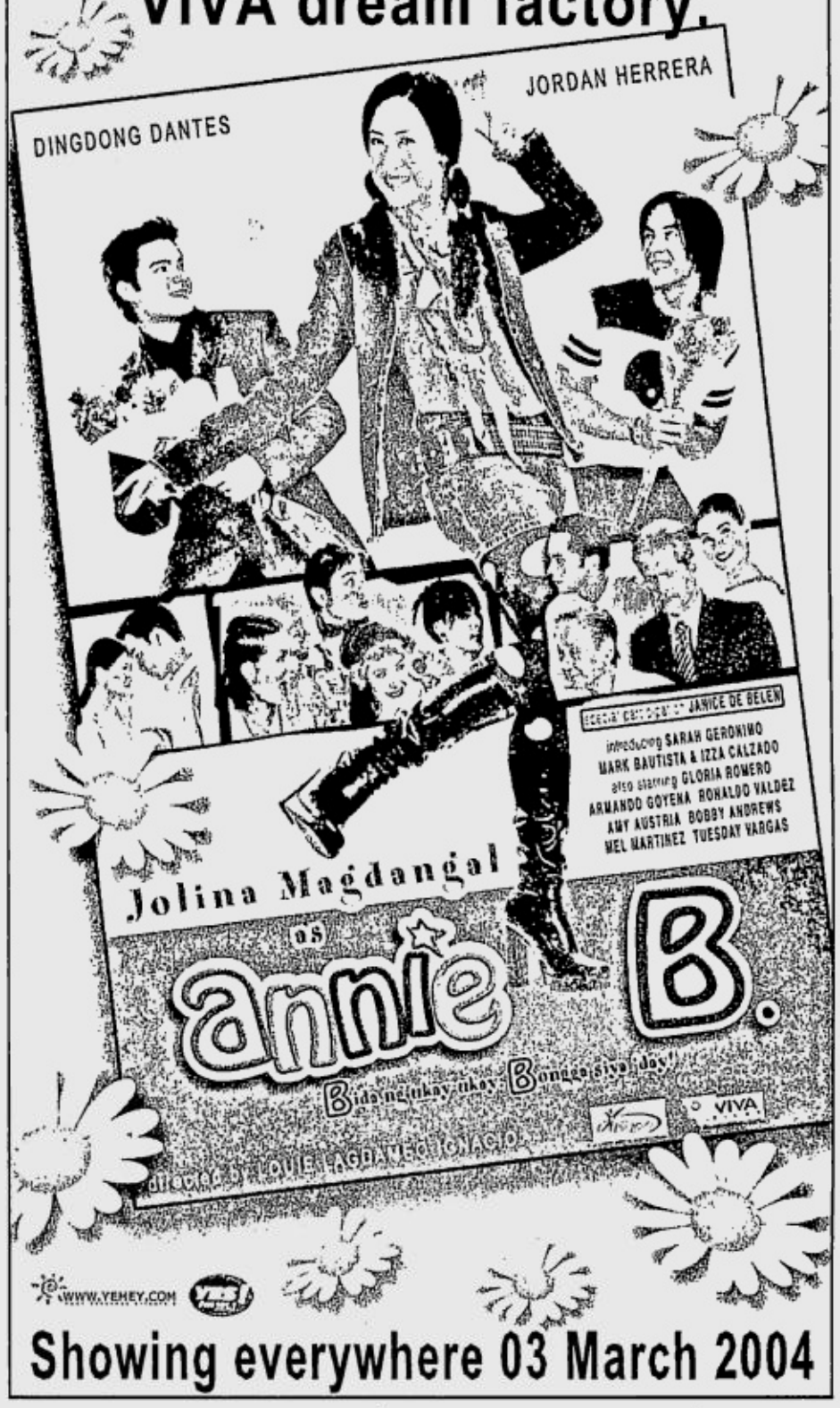

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Feb. 28 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
Feb 29 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm

AYALA CENTER CEBU
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Mar. 7 - 11:30am, 3pm, 6:30pm

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Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

IN THE MATTER OF DEPUTIZING THE METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR PURPOSES OF IMPLEMENTING COMELEC RESOLUTION NO. 6520.

Benjamin S. Abalos — Chairman
Rufino S.B. Javier — Commissioner
Mehol K. Sadain — Commissioner
Resurreccion Z. Borra — Commissioner
Florentino A. Tuason, Jr. — Commissioner

x----------x PROMULGATED: **12 February 2004**

RESOLUTION NO. 6616

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code and other election laws, the Commission on Elections may deputize law enforcement agencies and instrumentalities of the government and exercise direct supervision and control over such agencies required by law to perform duties relative to the conduct of elections;

WHEREAS, on January 6, 2004, the Commission promulgated Resolution No. 6520 or the "Rules and Regulations Implementing Republic Act No. 9006 (The Fair Elections Act) in relation to the May 10, 2004 elections and subsequent elections."

WHEREAS, Section 11 (6), Section 31 and Section 44 of the aforementioned resolution provide the following:

SECTION 11. Prohibited Forms of Election Propaganda - During the campaign period, it is unlawful.

x x x

6. To post, display or exhibit any election campaign or propaganda material outside of authorized common poster areas in public places, or in private places without the consent of the owner thereof.

x x x

SECTION 31. Creation of Task Force to Tear Down and Remove Unlawful Election Materials. There is hereby created a task force to tear down and remove all unlawful election materials, to be known as the Supervisory Task Force, composed of the Election Officer as Chairman, the Station Commander of the PNP (Chief of Police) as Vice-Chairman, and a third member belonging to any of the deputized agencies of the Commission.

The Task Force shall have the following duties and functions:

1. To tear down and remove campaign propaganda materials posted in public places outside the common poster areas;
2. To tear down and remove illegal campaign materials wherever posted or displayed;
3. To make a report of said activities done by them;
4. To monitor and watch out for persons posting or distributing said unlawful election paraphernalia and to arrest said persons caught in *flagrante delicto.*

x x x

SECTION 44. Election Offense - Any violation of RA 9006 and these rules shall constitute an election offense punishable under the first and second paragraphs of SECTION 264 of the Omnibus Election Code in addition to administrative liability whenever applicable. x x x

WHEREAS, the Commission has determined that the MMDA and the DENR would be valuable partners in implementing Resolution No. 6520, particularly with respect to provisions therein relative to the posting of campaign propaganda materials, with the end in view of ensuring the holding of free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible national and local elections on 10 May 2004;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission on Elections, by virtue of the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code and other related election laws, has RESOLVED to DEPUTIZE, as it hereby DEPUTIZES, the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to perform the following specific duties in relation to the conduct of the elections, to wit:

1. To tear down and remove campaign propaganda materials posted in public places outside the common poster areas;
2. To tear down and remove illegal campaign materials wherever posted or displayed;
3. To make a report of said activities done by them; and
4. To monitor and watch out for persons posting or distributing said unlawful election paraphernalia and to arrest said persons caught in *flagrante delicto.*

EFFECTIVITY

This resolution shall take effect immediately following its publication in at least two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

DISSEMINATION

The Executive Director shall furnish all the deputized officials and/or departments, offices, or agencies, through their respective heads, copies of this resolution.

The Education and Information Department shall disseminate this resolution for the information of the public.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS
Chairman

on Official Business
RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

(PDI - February 15, 2004)

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Lot Number/Description	Location	Min Bid Price
01-249-020 One (1) SF-260 Aircraft Nr 703 and SF-260 Assorted Aircraft Carcasses	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga /AETC, Fernando Air Base, Lipa City	P513,050.00
5-283-022 Ten (10) T-28 Engines with canister	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga	P450,000.00
5-283-023 Eight (8) T-28 Engines w/o canister	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga	320,000.00
Four (4) ea elevated water tanks	Col. Jesus Villamor Air Base, Pasay City	P466,789.35

REMINDERS TO BIDDERS:
1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding.
2. To submit bid in PAF official bid form.
3. Earnest money is required in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to (10%) of the minimum bid price
4. To be on time. No bid will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commence.
5. Pre bid conference and issuance of Bid forms (P200.00 per set) will be on **24 February 2004**, 2:00 PM at 420th SW Conference Room, Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga.
6. Inspection schedule will be from 16-23 February 2004, from 0800H to 1600H, Monday to Friday.

PAF DISPOSAL COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, AND TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE PAF.

For details and schedule of inspection call Cpl. Bienvenido J. Casaclang PAF at (045) 599-2015 loc 6524 or mobile 09167210260.

(Sgd.) **RUBEN C. ESTEPA**
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(PDI--Feb. 13, 14 & 15, 2004)

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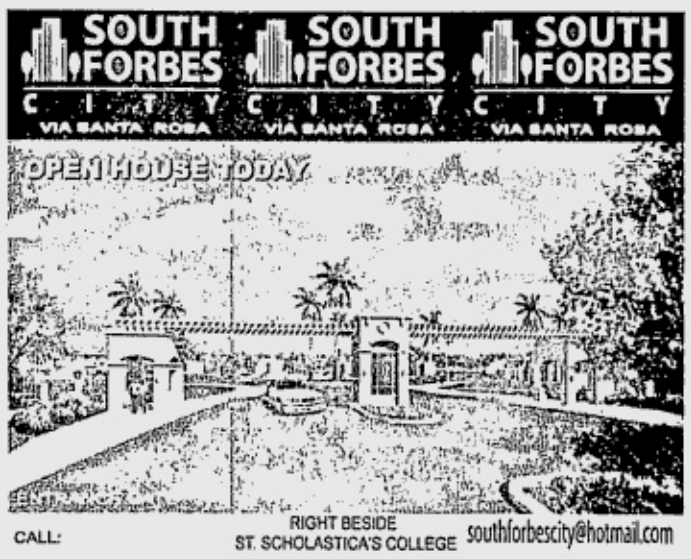

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2sty3br 1Car nice neighborhd 7811488 Mrs Ateinza

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ADELIA M. VILLAROMAN was extrajudicially settled with self-adjudication by her sole heir Rolando M. Villaroman per Doc No 320 Page No 64 Book No II Series of 2004 before Notary Public Atty. Natalia F. Oliverio of Manila (PDI-Feb. 1, 8 & 15, 2004)

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'99 HONDA CIVIC 4-D SEDAN	200,000.
'97 MAZDA 323	40,000.
'99 TOYOTA REVO	150,000.
'96 ISUZU DROP SIDE	50,000.
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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)** is inviting interested and legitimate suppliers to apply for eligibility and to submit bid proposals for the supply, installation and test running of hardware and software for the **Records Management System** of the Commission. The approved budget for this contract is **P10,027,000.00.**

Registration requirements could be secured from **Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod**, Head NTC BAC Secretariat, NTC Bldg., BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, beginning **16 February 2004** to be submitted not later than **1 March 2004, 5:00 p.m.**, through the BAC Secretariat.

Notification of registered suppliers and issuance of bid documents to registered suppliers shall be from **March 4 to 5, 2004** upon payment of non-refundable fee of One (1) Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

Pre-bid Conference will be on **March 8, 2004 at 2:00 p.m.** at NTC Office, NTC Bldg., BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission and opening of the bids will be on **March 22, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. and 22 March 2004 at 2:15 p.m.**, respectively. Bidders shall submit **five (5) separate sealed envelopes; one (1)** envelope containing the **eligibility requirements; two (2)** envelopes containing **the technical component** of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy, and **two (2)** envelopes containing the **financial component** of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned in the above-specified address.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with **"Republic Act 9184" and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.**

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation/process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO V. CABARIOS**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Feb. 15 & 22, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Camarines Norte
MUNICIPALITY OF PARACALE

February 15, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Municipal Government of Paracale, Camarines Norte invites interested and legitimate contractors to apply for eligibility and submit sealed bids for the CONSTRUCTION OF MALAGUIT-LABNIG BRIDGE (4.0 x 250.0 linear meters) located at barangays Labnig-Malaguit, Paracale, Camarines Norte.

1. The approved budget cost (ABC) for the contract to be bid is **Php10.000 million** from loan obtained from Naga Lending Center-Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP).
2. Application for Eligibility is open to contractors with PCAB license and registration for CATEGORY-Medium A.
3. The scope of work for the project includes the supply of materials, labor, tools and equipment for Test Pile, Concrete Piles Detour/ Craneway, Demountable office & Camp and Elastomeric Bearing Pad.
4. Eligibility forms/documents are available for issuance starting February 18, 2004 at the Municipal Treasury Office upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php200.00
5. Deadline for submission and receipts of eligibility documents & LOI (Letter of Intent) is on March 9, 2004 at the BAC office, Municipal Building Annex, 1:00 p.m.
6. Eligibility checks & opening of Application for Eligibility is on March 9, 2004, SB Session Hall at 1:30 p.m.
7. Bidding documents shall be issued only to eligible bidder(s) upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php2,000.00 starting March 9, 2004.
8. Pre-bid conference is set on March 10, 2004, SB Session Hall, 2:00 p.m.
9. Deadline for submission of bidding documents to BAC & opening of Bids is on March 22, 2004 at SB Session Hall – 1:30 p.m.
10. All applicable provision under the IRR of RA 9184 shall govern in all stages of the bidding procedures.

LGU-Paracale reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, waive any defect contained therein and accept an offer most advantageous to the LGU.

(Sgd) **RUBEN L. MENDIOLA**
Chairman
BIDS AND AWARD COMMITTEE
Date _____

(PDI–February 15, 2004)

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OBITUARIES

IN MEMORIAM AETERNA

Beloved Husband, Dearest Tatay and Lolo

Engr. Alfredo M. Bretaña Sr.

February 3, 1925 – February 21, 2003

The Holy Mass will be offered at the following churches this 21st day of February 2004 in commemoration of his 1st Death Anniversary

Rancho Estate 3 Chapel, Marikina 10:00 AM
Sacred Heart Church, Kingdom of Bahrain 5:30 PM Bahrain Time Feb. 20, 2004
St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo 6:00 AM
Sta. Maria Church, Iloilo City 6:00 AM
Parish of Our Lady of Candles, Jaro Metropolitan Cathedral, Jaro Iloilo City 6:00 AM

We sincerely thank our relatives and friends who continue to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

"We will always love you Tatay"

Marina (Nanay), Nene & Luchie, Nono, Neneng, Nonong & Ann, Inday & Eric, Nenette and Birdie and Grandchildren

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

"Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, My servant also will be."

John 12:16

DR. ANGEL LUNA YAPTINCHAY

October 2, 1914 – February 14, 2004

His loving wife, **Rafaela Gana**; his children, **Boy & Melanie, Angie & Lito Tanjuatco, Tina, Omy & Margie, Susan & Tony Narciso, Ave & Gerb Ignacio** & grandchildren; his siblings & in-laws, **Leticia & Leoncio Yatco, Oscar** (†) **& Leony**, deeply mourn his passing.

His remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills.

Interment will be on Tuesday, February 17, 2004 at the Biñan, Laguna Municipal Cemetery; after the 7:00 a.m. Mass at Santuario de San Jose.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

ARSENIO LIGON ORTEGA

of San Miguel, Bulacan
Died in the Grace of our Lord on 13 February 2004 at the age of 91.

His only daughter **Zenaida**, son-in-law **Ruben Cabrera**, grandchildren **Arman, Marlo** and **Vic Mina, Elizabeth, Marica** and **Jomar Castillo, Anthony**, great grandchildren, **Melissa, Gabby** and **Lance**, sister **Elisa Ramos**, brother **Lorenzo**, sister **Emilia** and brother-in-law **Tiburcio Tecson**, brother-in-law **Manny Lina**, and his nieces and nephews request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. John Mortuary, Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City.

Cremation will take place on 18 February 2004 after the 10:00 am mass at the La Funeraria Paz Crematory.

In lieu of flowers, please give donations to the Mary the Queen Charity Clinic.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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OBITUARIES

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Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

In Loving Memory of

LAURETA CARIASO VALDEZ

who joined her Creator on February 11, 2004 at the age of 71.

Her loving children **Ed** & **Evelyn**, **Lilia** & **Rafael**, **Amy** & **Francisco**, **Jerry**, **Marisa** & **Ronnie**, **Flor** & **Eugene**; grandchildren **Edilyn**, **Janice Lynedi**, **Lady Michelle**, **Carlo Kristian**, **Karen Kathleen**, **Katherine**, **Nicole** and **Caroline** mourn her passing and wish her eternal rest.

Her body lies in state at #81 Maharlika Highway, Bonfal Proper, Nueva Vizcaya and will be transferred to Holy Gardens Memorial Chapel, ML Quezon Avenue, Brgy. San Isidro, Angono, Rizal on Sunday, February 15, 2004 at 11 p.m.

Interment will be on Thursday, February 19, 2004, 10 a.m. at the Holy Gardens Memorial Park, Manila East Road, Brgy. Dolores, Taytay, Rizal.

...And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23:6

PLACIDA ANGELES BANQUILLA

October 13, 1917 - February 13, 2004

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace & Goodness of Our Lord on the 13th day of February, 2004 at the age of 86.

Her loving husband **Paterno** and family **Ellen**, **Joji** and **Bing**, **Nene** and **Sancho**, **Patrick**, **Ilsa**, **Lauren**, **Rahni** & **Ruby** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Chapel 2, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

Interment will take place on Tuesday, February 17, 2004 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

The Missionary Sisters
Servants of the Holy Spirit

Announce the death of

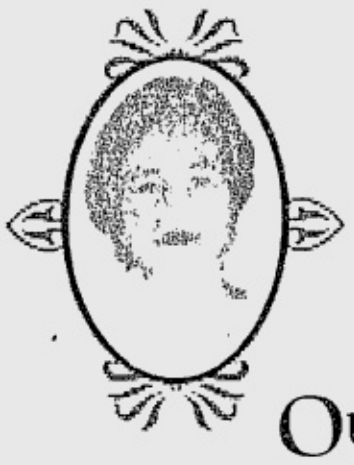
SISTER JOSEFARITA, S.Sp.S

(LORENZA ZAFRA)

on February 13, 2004 at the age of 80 at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Manila.

Mass of the Resurrection will be offered on Monday, February 16, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. at the Convent of the Holy Spirit 8 Poinsettia Road, Quezon City.

Interment will follow at the Christ the King Cemetery, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City.



"Only goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever..."
Psalm 23:6

Our dearly beloved

CECILIA G. NAVERA

Peacefully joined her Creator on February 13, 2004 at the age of 85.

Her sister, **Victoria**;
and her bereaved sisters-in-law; nephews, nieces, grandchildren, great grandchildren and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Navera's Residence at 149 Gen. Malvar Avenue, Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

Interment will be announced later.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life, He who believes in Me will Live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

CYNTHIA SAGARBARRIA SALCEDA

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on February 13, 2004 at the age of 56.

She shall be missed by her bereaved husband **Cesar**; children **Cathy**, **Christine**, **Reuel**; grandchildren **Debbie** and **Denica**; other relatives and friends.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, February 17, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City

Perhaps you offered masses, prayers or sent cards,
Perhaps you generously gave support in cash or in kind or through words of comfort,
Perhaps you joined us for the brief but touching moment of bidding LANA goodbye,
Perhaps you were unable to come but just thought of us kindly and wished us well.
For all of these and more,
We thank you for remembering LANA in even the smallest way.
From the Family of the Late
YOLANDA CELINA BUENGAMINO-RAMOS
April 3, 1953 -- January 10, 2004

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

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Editor Aries Espinosa

The economics of chronic disease management

TO SAY that only poor people have problems on healthcare cost would be an understatement. With the increased cost of medicines and other medical services, even patients who are earning a decent salary and could very well manage to pay for expensive drugs are looking for an affordable alternative.

Perhaps the burden of healthcare cost can be better understood when seen from a more visual and realistic assessment of the impact of the cost to the patient's monthly income.

Take the case of Enrico Peralta, a 40-year-old bank executive earning P30,000 a month. He is married with three children. Five years ago, he had been diagnosed to be suffering from hypertension and diabetes. His physician prescribed him with a calcium channel blocker, an ACE inhibitor, anti-cholesterol, anti-diabetes and a coronary vasodilator drugs. All of these drugs were to be taken once a day. If the cost of drugs are to be computed using the more expensive brands of medicine, a significant portion of the salary is being spent on medications.

Chronic diseases, which include diabetes, cardiovascular and pulmonary illnesses, are among the most costly of health problems. Since these are considered to be persistent and long-term diseases, long-term treatment is also required to put off the distressing and deadly complications of chronic diseases. Although effective drugs are available that can treat or hamper the development of these diseases, they are usually expensive, posing a barrier on treatment compliance especially for patients with an average income. Even the upper middle-class, who can very well afford high-priced medicines, such as Peralta, are complaining of the cost it takes to sustain treatment.

More than a physical burden, treating and controlling chronic diseases is a financial problem. That is why there is a need for affordable yet effective brand of medicines that would alleviate the problem of healthcare cost, especially so that the number of people suffering from chronic diseases is increasing annually. The burden of chronic diseases is now of epidemic proportions worldwide. In 2001, chronic diseases contributed approximately 59 percent of the 56.5 million total reported deaths in the world and 46 percent of the global burden of disease. In the Philippines, six out of the top 10 causes of morbidity are due to chronic diseases.

Therefore, adequately addressing the chronic disease burden in our country requires an initiative to make healthcare affordable for the average Filipino patient. Pharmacoeconomics, a concept applying the principles of economics to disease treatment with drugs, can help the medical community achieve this goal.

The pharmacoeconomics program is an answer to the doctors and patients' clamor for more affordable yet equally effective, safe and bioequivalent medicines. Through pharmacoeconomics, medical practitioners will have alternatives to the more expensive drugs, with the goal of making sure that the medicine is taken by the patient strictly according to his medical decision and prescription. Simply put, the idea of pharmacoeconomics is the use of affordable and bioequivalent medicines in the treatment of diseases. Bioequivalence means that a drug has the same effect with that of the originator product when given at the same quantity and dosing regimen. Therefore, according to the principles of drug bioequivalence, products demonstrated to be bioequivalent through clinical trial evidences can be regarded and prescribed as an alternative to the standard or innovator products and should also claim the effectiveness and other qualities of the drug.

The introduction of pharmacoeconomics in the country will help solve an array of problems associated with chronic disease. Patients will be able to follow the prescription of their physicians. They are also guaranteed greater protection from their diseases due to the regularity of intake of their medicines and the more costly eventualities or complications can be prevented.

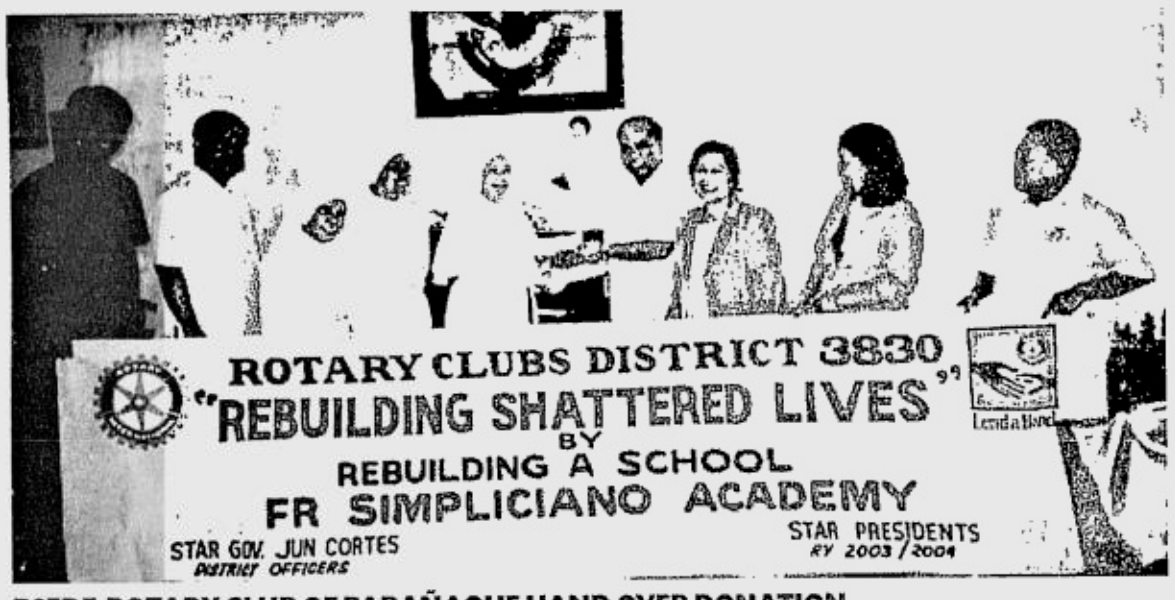
The idea of pharmacoeconomics is to help the patient able to take his drug for a longer period of time through a bioequivalent medicine for an eventual translation into optimum clinical benefits at a more reasonable cost. Although the beneficiaries of pharmacoeconomics program are the patients, the clinicians and other healthcare providers play a crucial role in the success of the program. Being an important element in healthcare decision process, doctors have to make sure that they prescribe a proven bioequivalent alternative drug to ensure treatment success.

THE 10 DOVE DISCOVERY FINALISTS

The 10 Dove Discovery finalists were recently presented in the show 'All About You.' Two of them will be Dove's new discoveries and will appear in its commercials. The search started in September last year when Dove invited women to share their stories of self-discovery after using Dove. The two winners are expected to win P120,000 in cash and Dove products. Viewers and Dove users also have a chance to win P100,000. Just send in your votes to Unilever Phils. If the person you voted wins, then you will have a chance to win a trip to Bangkok, Thailand. The new Dove Discoveries will be chosen in March in time for the National Women's Month. The Dove Hotline will answer your inquiries regarding the promo. Just call 1-800-10-564-7258 or 564-7258. For Smart subscribers, just text 3484. You can also log on to www.dovediscovery.com The 10 Dove Discovery Finalists (standing from left) Pam Sio, Anne Feo-Maningo, Christine Garcia, Jenny Ortega-Manguiat, and Vanessa Teves. Seated (from left): Shirly Joy Cuyugan, Avegail Alapide, Malou Nuñez, Saudin Dungog, and Wen Raymundo.

MS ASIA PACIFIC QUEST VICTORY PARTY AT HOLIDAY INN

Concluding the well-renowned Miss Asia Pacific Quest (MAPQ) 2003 was the pageant's victory party held at the Summit Lounge of Holiday Inn Galeria Manila. Straight from the pageant's grand coronation night, the delegates proceeded to the hotel to celebrate the event's success as well as to pay tribute to the new reigning beauties of the Miss Asia Pacific Quest topped by Ms. Russia Tatyana Nikitina. Shown are Ms. Holiday Inn Galleria Manila winner Ms. Asia Pacific fourth runner-up Wong Wye Yeng of Malaysia. With her are Robinsons Land Corp's Frederick Go and Holiday Inn Galleria Manila's GM Bill Vincent during the pageant's victory party.



RSEDF, ROTARY CLUB OF PARAÑAQUE HAND OVER DONATION

President Nars Bugarin (4th from right) of the Rotary Star Education and Development Foundation and the Rotary Club of Parañaque Southwest presents a P300,000 check donation to Mother Flora Zippo (5th from right), Head of the Franciscan Sisters of the Scared Heart, administering the burned school Father Simpliciano Academy which the foundation is helping rebuild. Also in photo are (from left) President Nominee Ador Tolentino, Past President Joseph Sison, Project Chairman, Sister Genee Sisante, Father Simpliciano Academy Administrator, Sister Remy Rebadajo, Principal, President Fely Manahan of RC Parañaque Lakambini, First Ann Mila Bugarin and Rotarian Jun Espinueva.

China Bank's rich, long legacy featured in Mano Po 2

CHINA Banking Corporation's long legacy of supporting businesses and individuals was featured in Regal Film Entertainment Inc.'s official entry to the Manila Film Festival, Mano Po 2: My Home.

A story of family relationships, forgiveness, and love, the all-star cast film begins with Chinese citizen Antonio Chan, skillfully portrayed by Christopher de Leon and his wife Soledad, admirably played by Kris Aquino embarking on their new life as husband and wife.

Believing that access to capital would not be difficult, the young couple approached China Bank to apply for a loan in order to start a new business. From there, the story unfolds.

The movie epitomizes the many successful businessmen to whom China Bank played a pivotal role. To cite a few: retain magnate John Gokongwei

Jr., distillery king Carlos Palanca, and statesman and nationalist Sergio Osmena.

"Mano Po 2: My Home is a tribute to the rich and interesting tradition of Filipino-Chinese families. It also celebrates the Filipino-Chinese's valuable contribution to the Philippine economy which has been witnessed and participated by China Bank firsthand", China bank's First Vice President Alexander Escucha said.

In more than 83 years, China Bank continuously provided support to businessmen with its products and services such as term-deposit products, investment options, cash management facilities, multi-purpose loans, insurance products and services.

China Bank is one of the country's leading universal bank with more than 140 online branches serving you with longer banking hours (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and 165 ATMs nationwide. Visit www.chinabank.ph for more information.

ST. PAUL CENTENNIAL

2004 marks 100 years of the St. Paul sisters in the Philippines. It will be celebrated with year-round activities. Shown are: SPCM president, Sr. Suzette Hilaria Bautista (front row, 4th from left) during the official launch of the 100th Year Anniversary of the St. Paul Congregation in the Philippines held at St. Paul Dumaguete. Behind the delegation is a life-size monument-diorama depicting the landing of the first seven sisters of St. Paul on Philippine shores.

MCU CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

Shown is the opening ceremony of the centennial anniversary of the Manila Cental University and unveiling of lawyer Filemon Tanchoco Sr. commemorative Bas-Relief held last Jan. 14. From left are (partly hidden) Estela Tanchoco; Luningning Estanislao, EVP, president Lualhati Gonzales and Patria Ng.

ProductFILES

A love affair with Graziella and Antonella

MAIA Alta will once again sweep you off your feet with its picturesque community setting that is the pride of Crown Asia. Nestled in the bounteous hillsides of Anitpolo, fall in love with Graziella and Antonella-- two new home models inspired by fresh designs that convene form and functionality, Crown Asia's answer to potential homeowners' increasing need for a more space-and-functionally-efficient architectural scheme. Now, this core idea behind all of Maia Alta's best-selling home model series has been enhanced. Both cozy and beautiful, Antonella is a spacious 2-bedroom, 2-storey home ideal for couples starting a family, while Graziella's ample 2-floor layout that features 3 bedrooms, 2 toilet & bath, carport and balcony exemplifies home planning at its best. The feel of Italy is found in the richness of the home finishing details and available color options. Made from excellent, non pre-fab structural components, every home model built comes complete and ready for occupancy. To schedule a visit, call tel. 634.2690.

SAVEMORE SUPERMARKET NOW IN ALABANG

Savemore Supermarket, an affiliate of SM Group of Companies, opened its doors to Alabang shoppers last Feb. 6 at the Festival Supermall, Filinvest Corporate City. Exciting activities and promotions are lined up to welcome Alabang customers the whole month of February. Shown (from left) are: Manuel Fong, Jr., managing director of SM Supermarket; Josephine Yap, executive vice president of Filinvest Alabang Inc; Mayor Jaime Fresnedi of Alabang; Vice Mayor Jo Jayson Alcaraz of Alabang, and Herbert Sy, vice president for marketing of SM Supermarket at the ribbon-cutting ceremony as they formally open Savemore Supermarket.

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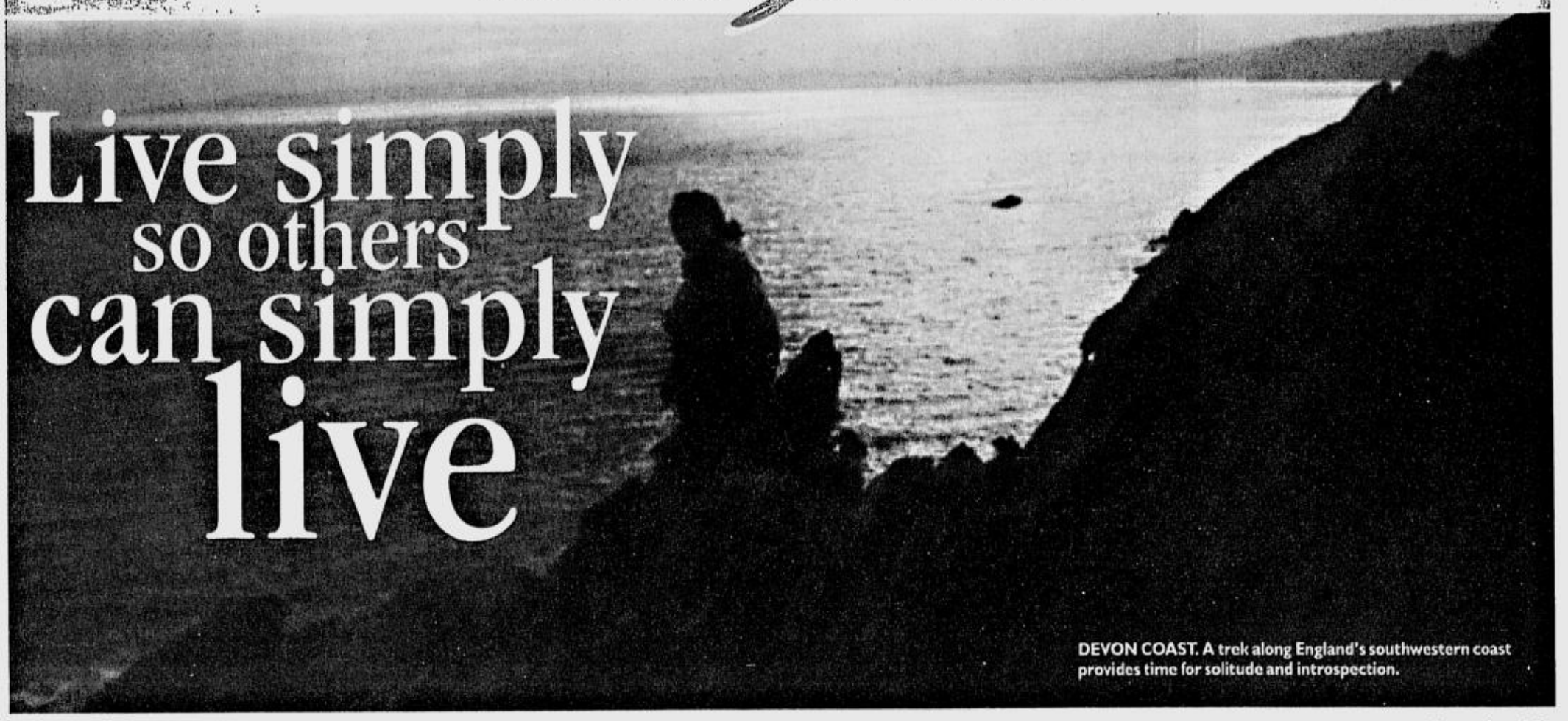
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Live simply so others can simply live



DEVON COAST. A trek along England's southwestern coast provides time for solitude and introspection.

By Baboo Mondonedo
Contributor

A three-week course at Schumacher College in England teaches the correlation between simplicity and social change

FOR THREE weeks in November, 12 individuals from different continents attended a course on "Voluntary Simplicity and Social Change" at the Schumacher College Center for Ecological Studies in Devon, England.

Schumacher College was named after E.F. Schumacher, the "Small Is Beautiful" author who sought to develop modest initiatives based on human scale, integrating the spiritual and practical. Through residential courses held throughout the year, the college promotes human values to counter the dehumanization of industrial societies.

Course participants, this writer included, came from diverse cultures and fields—psychology, health, government, civil society, law, forestry, media. Their ages ranged from 28-70 years and they lived in a community with students of holistic science, the faculty and staff.

The need to come alive

The first week's teacher was Vicki Robin, author of "Your Money or Your Life." She talked about simplicity for sustainability and simplicity in a complex world. She provided tools on how to become financially independent.

She said people needed money to survive, then to be comfortable and then to have luxury, which should be "enough." But then they overspent and had excess that became clutter. When people were depressed they shopped, buying unnecessary items, when they should have just gone for a walk with a friend or spent time being intimate with their partner or children.

On social change, she said "Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive. Do that because what the world needs is that people come alive."

She advocated for "intervention in the system as it changes." "Stand in the current and feel it and take a stand." She added that everything everyone did impacted.

Sit like a tiger

Sulak Sivaraksa, a Thai social activist and author of several books ("Loyalty Demands Dissent" and "Seeds of Peace"), took the second week, starting and ending each session with meditation.

Sulak, currently out on bail, had been jailed several times for criticizing the monarchy and the government in his country. When he talked about his arrests, he spoke on how he regarded his captors and jailers "with loving-kindness."

Sulak said world peace was not possible unless there was inner peace. He said simplicity was learning to limit your wants or how to be content.

"The less selfish you are, the more you can think holistically," he said. "Greed should be transformed into generosity, anger and hatred into compassion and delusion and ignorance into understanding and wisdom. Change of lifestyle is not enough. There is a need to create alternative communities and new modes of production and consumption."

He explained that meditation helped one to be clear and calm and was essential in personal or social transformation. "Sit like a tiger, resting."

He said social transformation must overcome prejudices. Everything has to be examined, questioned and put into practice. It could be useful or harmful. Be critical of yourself in a positive way.

He advised social activists to expand their network of good friends, avoid bad friends and employ "skillful means."

'Affluenza'

The third week's teacher, John de Graaf, talked about "Affluenza,"

LIVE/ C2

INTERACTION. Students at Schumacher had time to share ideas as well as household chores.

And there they go!

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Live simply so others can simply live

From page C1

an epidemic manifested by overwork and time famine. De Graaf is the national coordinator of the "Take Back Your Time" campaign in the United States.

According to De Graaf, affluenza is when people have so much materially but are poor in spirit. Only 20 percent of Americans take their vacation leaves, many for fear they might lose their jobs. The wealthy communities now need "dog-sitters" and Prozac is now given to unattended dogs.

Americans have little time to even cook hearty meals, with many just buying TV dinners or take-outs. The young kids have rooms full of toys but complain to their parents that they are bored.

De Graaf said what many were realizing was that "happiness is more important than economic efficiency." Bhutan is one country where gross national happiness is the measure rather than the gross national product. On the other hand the French believe, "We should all work less so all can work." Those of us from the South explained that in our countries the problem was not overwork but rather having work.

Science with soul

Stephan Harding discussed Deep Ecology, or having reverence for everything, having a soul *anima mundi*. He warned that we were losing species at a fast rate, as the modern view saw the world as a machine.

This shift of thinking came about in the 16th-17th century when the Protestants split from the Catholic Church, and the Enlightenment followed with scientific methods developed by Bacon, Galileo, Descartes, Newton. Five-million women labeled "witches," who believed in the soul of the world, were killed for their soulful approach to nature.

Stephan said science was rediscovering *anima mundi*. "We should not throw it (science) away. We should modify and integrate *anima mundi*—science with a soul."

The day started with meditation for those who wanted to. Sessions with teachers were in the mornings and the afternoons were spent deepening the learning.

There was shared work, and everyone in the college had their turn cooking, clearing up, doing housework, cleaning toilets and composting. The work aspect of the course added to the mood and spirit of being in community.

Vegetarian meals were prepared with the use of fresh, organic produce with recipes from "Gaia's Kitchen," a compilation of Schumacher's in-house recipes.

Part of the ecology thrust was excursions along the Devon coast to Dartmouth, a lovely seaside town. There was a trek along the River Dart, the woodlands and open moorlands with many walks and lovely villages and views within the Dartmoor National Park.

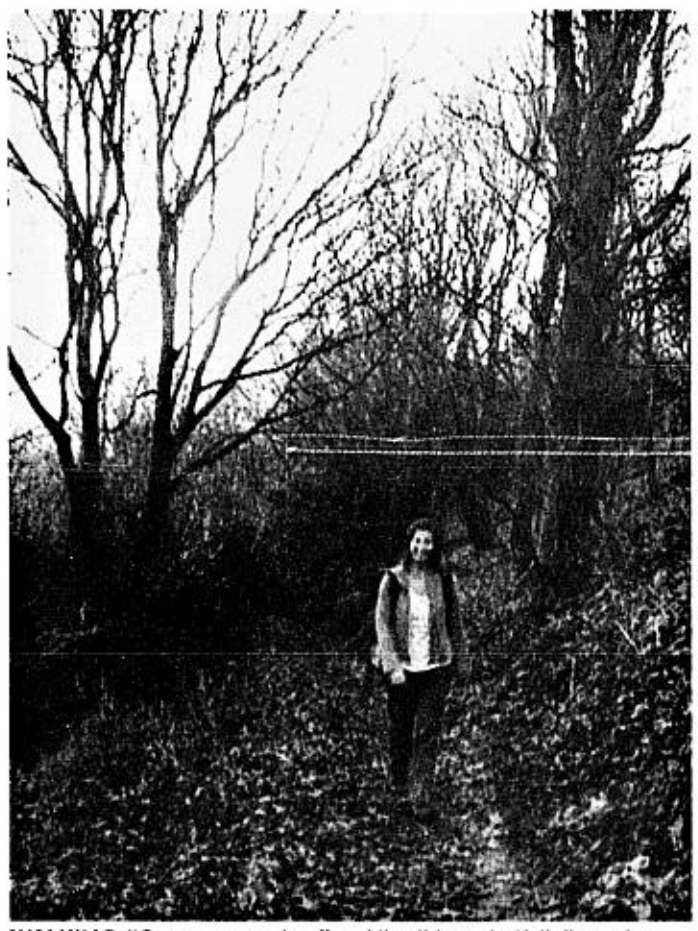
Wednesdays were "open evenings" when members of the community came and interacted with the faculty and students at the College. On these occasions, one of our teachers gave a short talk followed by an open forum. Chai tea and freshly baked cookies were served at the dining room for more exchanges.

On Fridays were soirées, homegrown parties where people played music, danced or did performing art.

Talks and walks

There were conversation cafés on topics like "Simplicity in a Complex World" and "Celebrating Christmas." Conversation cafés used talking objects to be held by the person whose turn it was to speak. Students gathered at the college pub End of Chaos, which opened 9-11 p.m., another venue for informal dialogue.

SIMPLICITY CLASS. The author (far left) is shown with her class and teachers Satish Kumar (fourth from left) and John de Graaf (far right) on the grounds of Schumacher College in Devon.



WALKING. "One step at a time" and "walking mindfully" are the advice given.

COMMUNING WITH NATURE. Participants go on walks along the Dart River which flows through the national park.

There were walks to Dartington Gardens with ancient oak trees. Ten minutes away was Cider Press Centre where works of local artists and small shops were on display.

A 40- minute hike along a stream to Totnes High Street was always a pleasant one. In Totnes were concerts, open markets, organic clothing, painters' studios, bookstores, teashops and pubs.

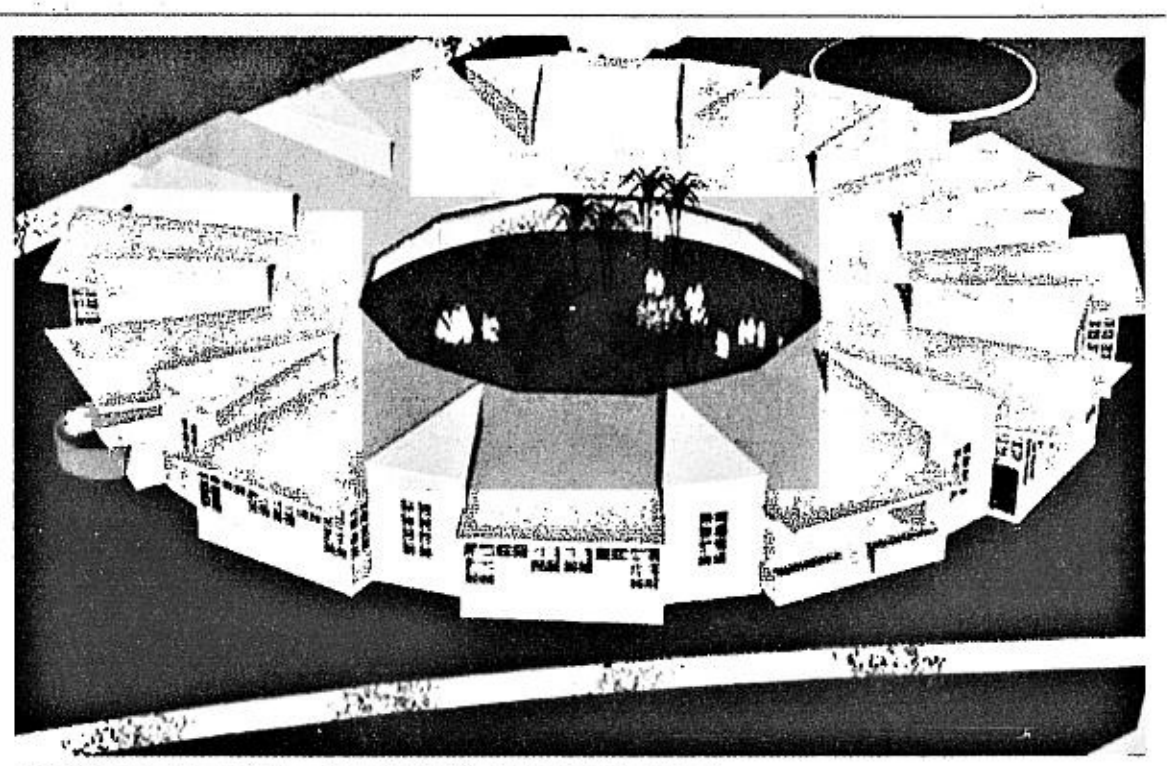
Outings on weekends were to Buckfastleigh Abbey, Exeter's St. Peter's Cathedral, and the nearby towns. A visit to a teahouse to have Devon clotted cream tea brought one to English tradition.

All this in three weeks! The Schumacher experience affirmed many beliefs and provided tools for a purposeful life. At the same time, it allowed for review of one's own path and showed other options.

The message it brought home was that there was enough for everyone's need but not for everyone's greed. Simplicity is peace.

The author is an ecology advocate and a freelance writer residing in Baguio City.

THE FACILITY admits infants and toddlers in its Family Play Center and children aged 3-5 in preschool.



SUMMIT School is an affiliate of New York's Manhattan Country School.

School opens in the Fort

SUMMIT School, an affiliate of New York's Manhattan Country School, opens in Fort Bonifacio with the completion of its pre-school building.

The school follows the approach of Bank Street College of Education in the United States, which was established in 1916. The Bank Street method involves an integrated curriculum for physical, social, emotional and cognitive development.

Bank Street alumna Severina Santos, who has a master's degree in Early Childhood Education, heads the new school. Dr. Myrna N. Quintos is consultant in child psychiatry, while Danmaire C. Consing is head teacher.

Architect Dominic Galicia has created a child-oriented facility on a 9,000-sq m property on University Parkway in Fort Bonifacio.

Next to be completed is the grade school building.

Summit School admits infants and toddlers in its Family Play Center and children aged 3-5 in preschool. Reservation for Grades 1 and 2 is now ongoing.

Call 8819032/9034.

A young priest reflects on Jesus' birth

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

FEBRUARY is the love month and Feb. 14 is devoted to romantic love between couples, married or unmarried. But there is such a thing as divine love, which is God's love for us and our love for God.

When he was a young priest, Bishop Joel Baylon of Masbate experienced this love for the Baby Jesus one Christmas Eve. He was deep in prayer, but he was able to write down his experience afterwards in his private journal. He handed this particular reflection to his spiritual mentor, Fr. Kenneth Bogart, SJ, who kept it for a long time.

A few months before he died of Parkinson's disease, Father Ken gave the copy of the priest's reflection to Rosemarie Arcenas-Ong, who was then part of the Parkinson's Support Group of the Philippines.

On Oct. 18, 2003, Bishop Baylon marked his 25 years as a priest and, on June 13, feast of St. Anthony de Padua, he and the province of Masbate will celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Cathedral of St. Anthony de Padua. The renovation of the cathedral is 70 percent complete.

In sharing this reflection with you, Bishop Baylon wishes to convey that, as Christians, we can be God-bearers, carrying Jesus in our hearts and telling people about Him.

Birth of Jesus

"It was toward twilight when Mary gave birth. As there was nothing for me to do inside the hut, I went out to gather some dried twigs for the fire—to keep Mary and her Baby warm that night.

"When I turned, there He was, very beautiful to behold. Mary's son. Son of God. Of His fullness we have all received. I looked at Him in awe-filled silence.

"As I watched, Mary picked Him up and gave Him to me to hold. I was beside myself with joy as I took Him. God in my arms! I felt so good and privileged; yet so humbled by such grace.

"As I held Him there His face began to change. First into the face of a bull, then into the Pope's tiara, then into the crescent moon and other forms. And I realized these were symbols of the various religions of the world. This child in my arms, however, He is seen and known—as Allah or Yahweh or Jesus Christ—He is the same God, Creator and Lord of all. I looked at Him again. He looked so fragile. And then He said to me: 'Bring me to the world.'

"I gave Him back to His mother. As I did so, His face began to change again. The forms were grotesque and ugly and I did not understand. So I asked Him what they meant. He said I must find Him in the midst of the ugliness and darkness of people's lives. And I must help people to do the same.

"I remembered some friends and other people who had shared their pains with me, people whose cries and questions I had listened to, people who were hurting much and often wondered if there was a reason to hope—or to live. And I began to understand: To be Christian... is to be a bearer of God. To a world that is divided, burdened, crushed. Like Mary, to be Theotokos. A God-bearer."

Diocese of Masbate Mass

Bishop Baylon will celebrate the Sunday TV Mass at 6:45 a.m., March 7, at ABS-CBN with the Diocese of Masbate-Project Cathedral Wings as sponsor to raise funds for the completion of the St. Anthony Cathedral. To help, please text Lydia Monfort at 0917-8242925 or Dr. Lalaine Rapadas at 0916-3270068 or call 4550220.

Greatest commandment

"In asking which is the greatest commandment, the Pharisees expected Jesus to tell them what He felt was most essential about the law. Jesus' answer—love of God and neighbor—centers all observance of the law on love. To those who heard Him, people whose whole culture and way of life was based on the law, Jesus was saying that every detail of their lives depended on love.

"The world has saturated our thoughts about love with human ideology. We are steeped in popular notions absorbed from television, movies, magazines and books of all kinds. We tend to think of love as emotional, sensual, uncontrollable; we fall in love as if we stumbled over it in the dark, or wake up to find the love has gone as if it were a coward that had fled at daylight. But we are called to will and to do what God wants and are empowered to do this by His love for us. That, and not a feeling inside, is love of God.

"Love of God means that we worship Him only; not our families, jobs or possessions; loving our neighbors means that we are patient, kind and 'bear all things' (1Corinthians 13:4,7). To understand this, we must first ask God to teach us what his love is, to teach us what these injunctions mean in our lives. Only if our love is rooted in the love of God will it bear fruit for the salvation of others. We love God when we choose His will and obey it. The power comes from God—the decision is ours. Let us open ourselves and ask Him to teach us. Then we will be able to love our neighbor as God loves—freely, generously and without reservation." (From "Meditations on the Gospel of St. Matthew," Leo Zanchettin, general editor)

Our Lady of Caysasay

Last Dec. 7, the eve of the feast of the 400th year anniversary of Our Lady of Caysasay, joined the grand Marian procession of the Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion in Intramuros for the first time.

The Blessed Virgin, also known as the patroness of the Chinese who call her Mama Ma-cho, was visited by a bus-full of devotees from San Fernando, La Union, who also sponsored the fireworks display at exactly 15 minutes before midnight, signifying the culmination of an almost seven hours procession which started from her shrine in Labac, Taal until the fluvial procession on the Pansipit River where she was found 400 years ago.

She was met through the traditional ritual called Salubong by the Hermanos Mayores—Ambassador Raul Goco and Marietta Goco, together with the town mayor Librado Cabrera and Mrs. Fe Cabrera. The image then was brought to the Basilica of St. Martin de Tours where she was canonically crowned in 1954, in preparation for the next day's fiesta celebration in the town proper.

For the first time her religious Calendar 2004 was also distributed. At the same time, Our Lady of Caysasay commemorative magazine, a 128-page full color publication, was also released by the publishers Blessed Virgin of Caysasay Foundation Inc. which undertakes the propagation of the devotion. For copies of calendars and magazines or stampitas and miracle water, please contact 0927-4701575 or 0920-2663227.

Seminarian needs help

Seminarian Benigno Etullo is a second year Philosophy student of the Sacred Heart Formation House in Cagayan de Oro City. Benigno, 21, needs a benefactor so he can finish his studies and become a priest. A native of Sagnay, Camarines Sur, Benigno wants to become a priest of the order of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (SCJ). Those who wish to help can write him at Sacred Heart Formation House, Aluba, Macasandig, Cagayan de Oro City or call (088) 8571121 or e-mail him at benigno-etullo@yahoo.com.

BISHOP Joel Baylon of Masbate

Baylon has been a man of the cloth for 25 years

Trip to Banneux, Belgium

Since we wrote about Our Virgin of the Poor, patroness of Banneux, Belgium, Marian devotees have shown interest in visiting her shrine.

Adam's Travel is organizing a pilgrimage that leaves Manila on March 31, pass by Amsterdam to visit the chapel of Our Lady of All Nations then to Bauring where the Virgin with the Golden Heart appeared before proceeding to Banneux where Our Lady showed herself to Mariette Beco on Jan. 15, 1933. She appeared to Mariette eight times.

There is a spring in Banneux where people wash themselves with the miraculous healing water as in Lourdes, France.

The pilgrimage includes trips to Liseux in time for Palm Sunday, Holy Tuesday in Lourdes, Maundy Thursday in Garabandal, Good Friday in Santiago de Compostela, and Easter Sunday in Fatima, Portugal. Those interested can call Adam's Travel at 5211651; 5211638 or fax 5212255.

Marian encounter seminar

The Missionaries of Mary (M. O. M.), a lay Marian community, is holding a Marian Encounter Seminar on Feb. 22. Admission is free. Call Sr. Luz at 7438729, address: 60 Scout Santiago, Quezon City.

Sta. Clara Parish School reunion

The Sta. Clara Parish School, the only exclusive Catholic school for boys in Pasay City, will hold its 2004 Grand Alumni Homecoming on Feb. 28 at 1 p.m. on campus grounds. All graduates from 1968 to 2003 are invited.

Santa Clara is a noted school, having produced doctors, educators, engineers, athletes, writers, computer programmers, lawyers, artists, advertising and marketing men, and perhaps more notably, priests. In fact, some of its graduates later went to the San Carlos Seminary, the archdiocesan seminary. A former parish priest of Sta. Clara was Antipolo Bishop Gabriel Reyes.

Call Prof. Adrian C. Jarder (0918-7140739), Eduardo Salamera (0920-2856646), and Christine Joy Robledo (0920-2461007). Also call 8318253 or e-mail scps_pasay@yahoo.com.

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4. Each person can only claim a maximum of five (5) items. Redeem from Feb. 1 to May 29, 2004 only.
5. Employees of Globe Telecom, Avon, Harrison Communications, Inc., and Globe dealers, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from the promo.

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'Dirty' ice cream cart in Milan /D2-D3

Gem X's choice picks

ALEX VAN HAGEN

LEO VALDEZ, SINGER/THEATER ACTOR
"The moment I saw this Bulgari-Bulgari Tubogas watch (in gold and steel combination), I just had to have it. The style—a bracelet and watch in one—and size were perfect for me. It was the last piece in the store and would no longer be produced. Eventually, my watch will be a collector's item."

JUDY VALLES-SO, ENTREPRENEUR
"I like the design of this particular Lucea watch because it's very elegant, contemporary and different from classic pieces. I love the dial because it's mother-of-pearl. It's also very wearable, even during the day, and not too flashy."

Text by Apples Aberin-Sadhwani
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

LEAVE it to dashing Mario Katigbak to host another classy and undeniably successful Bulgari event. This time around, it was a pre-Valentine cocktail to launch the Bzero1 rose gold jewelry (only available for Valentine's) and the limited-edition Manila Watch.

The affair was held at the tony Bulgari boutique in Greenbelt 4. And, as always, every detail was done in excellent taste, from the gorgeous golden-haired, red-clad harpist, who provided ethereal music, to the flowing Moet et Chandon and delectable fare by Shangri-La Makati.

The guest list was also a veritable who's who. Italian Ambassador Umberto Colesanti and Mme. Clara Colesanti, Dr. Randy Francisco and Irene Martel-Francisco, handsome Raul Manzano, well-dressed Cathy de Guzman, socialites Mellie Ablaza and Helen Ong and INQUIRER fitness columnist Cory Quirino, to name a few, were all on hand to view Bulgari's latest offerings.

The true stars of the evening, however, were Bulgari's incomparably exquisite pieces that awestruck guests admired and tried on. Take a peek at some of Manila's chic-est set and their favorite Bulgari pieces.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

JENNY SANTI, BUSINESS STUDENT
"This Allegra neckpiece of colorful semiprecious stones is all I need to brighten up a very simple outfit."

ALEX VAN HAGEN

SARI YAP, PUBLISHER/JOURNALIST
"These Bulgari-Bulgari dangling earrings (white gold with onyx) go well with my wardrobe, which has a lot of black. I just like them. They talk to me."

LIZA ILARDE-CUENCA, JOURNALIST
"I love color and lately I've been into big cocktail rings. Candy-colored stones are also very popular this year, so these rings from the Bulgari Metropolis collection are perfect!"

ROVI ESTACIO, MARKETING EXECUTIVE/MODEL
"The Bulgari Chrono Tachimetric is masculine and appealing—not to mention unique and extraordinary."

TESS SANTOS, ENTREPRENEUR
"I chose these Lucea earrings of pearls and demi-pavé diamonds because they are dainty, young and ultra-feminine. They are also classic pieces that suit my style."

NYMPHA YATCO, ENTREPRENEUR
"I always make sure I get the latest Bulgari pieces, even before they are out in the market. This Lucea necklace with pearls is one of my favorites because it is simple but elegant, feminine with just the right amount of glitter. I feel it reflects my personality as well."

VIKKI ESTACIO, ENTREPRENEUR
"I love the Bzero1 rings, be it in rose, yellow or white gold, with or without diamonds! They are such classics that I can wear with jeans or for more formal occasions. They don't look too extravagant, which suits me just fine."

JUN ESCARIO, DESIGNER
"I need something that I can wear with jeans or suits. This limited-edition Manila Watch fits the bill. Plus, it's sleek, stylish and special."

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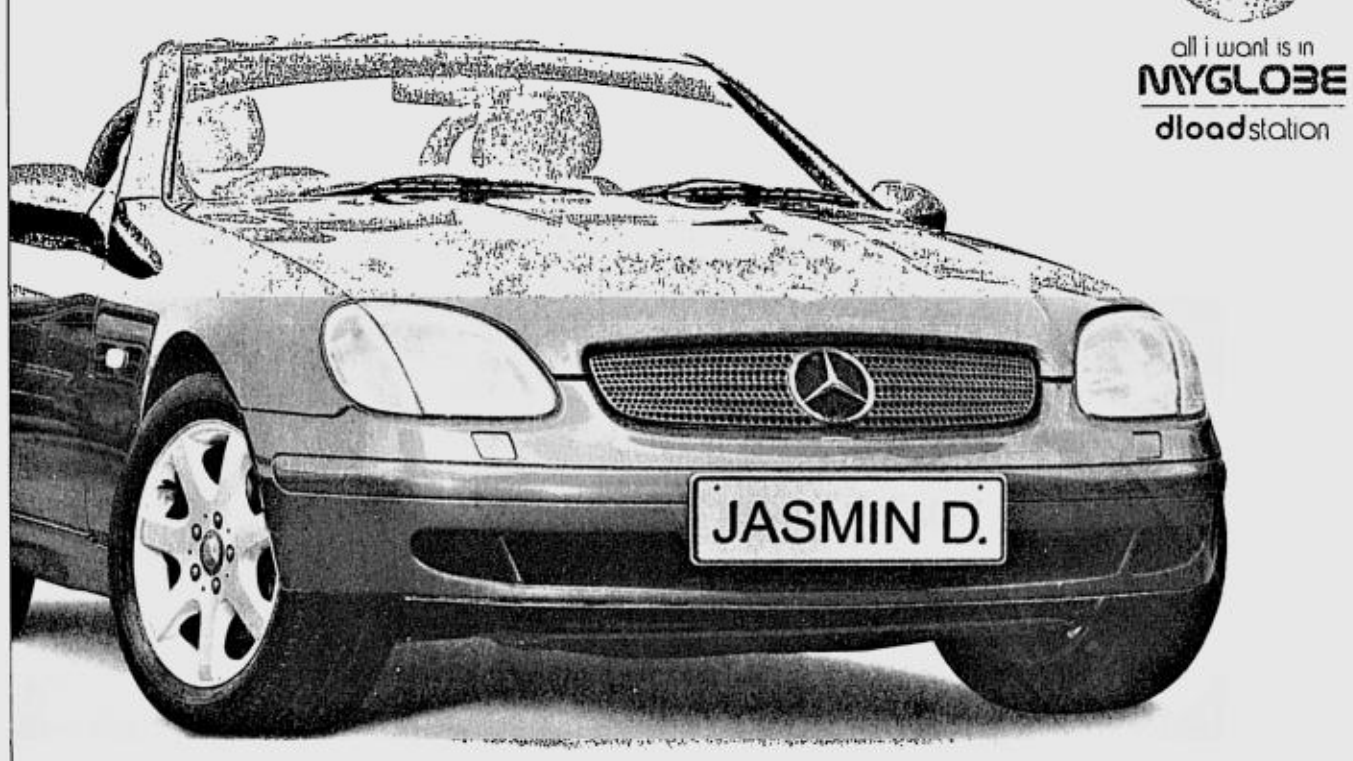

Congratulations to Jasmin D. Docot of Dasmariñas, Cavite!
Winner of myGlobe's DLOAD Station raffle last Feb 5, 2004*.

Hot to win P1 Million? Text HOTTONE to 2346 and subscribe to the hot tone of the week. Grand draw is on March 31!

You can also join by downloading these chart-topping tones.

HOTLIST

Title	Artist	Keyword
The Gift	Piolo Pascual	thegift
Biglaan	6 Cycle Mind	biglaan
Sa Iyo	Sarah geronimo	saiyo
Because of You	Keith Martin/ Kyla	becauseofu
Endless Love 2 Theme	Endless Love 2	endlesslove2
Happy	Alexia	f4happy
If You Come To Me	Atomic Kitten	ifucome2me
My Immortal	Evanescence	myimmortal
Breaking Us in Two	Mandy Moore	breakinusin2
Toxic	Britney Spears	toxic
Hey Yah	Outkast	heyyah
Baby I Love You	Jennifer Lopez	babyiloveyou
Clarity	John Mayer	clarity
Where Is The Love	Black Eyed Peas	werisdlove
Bakit Pa Ba?	Jay-r	bakitpaba

MOST REQUESTED LOVESONGS

Title	Artist	Keyword
A Penny For Your Thoughts	Tavares	apenny
Overjoyed	Stevie Wonder	overjoyed
Knocks me off my feet	Stevie Wonder	knocksmeoff
Weak	SWV	weak
Fallin	Teri Desario	fallin
Fallen	Lauren Wood	fallen
Till They Take My Heart Away	Clair Marlow	tildeytake
All My Life	America	allmylife
Love Is All That Matters	Eric Carmen	loveisall
Get Here	Oleta Adams	gethere
More Than Words	Extreme	moredanwords
Friend Of Mine	Odette Quesada	friendofmine
Be My Number Two	Joe Jackson	bemyno2
Ako'y Sayo	I-Axe	akoysayo
Don't Know What To Say	Ric Segretto	dontknow

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*Ms. Docot opted to get cash equivalent of car prize.

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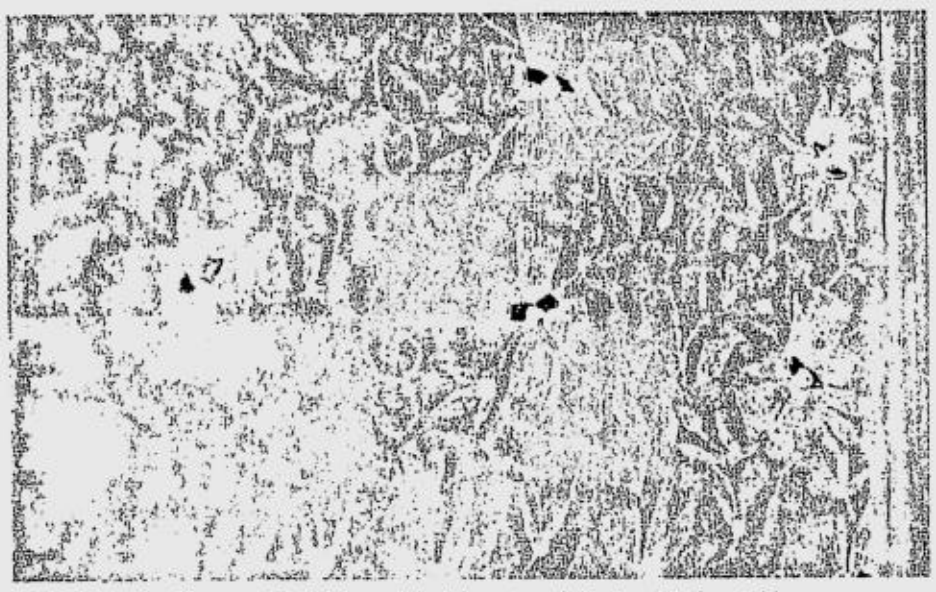
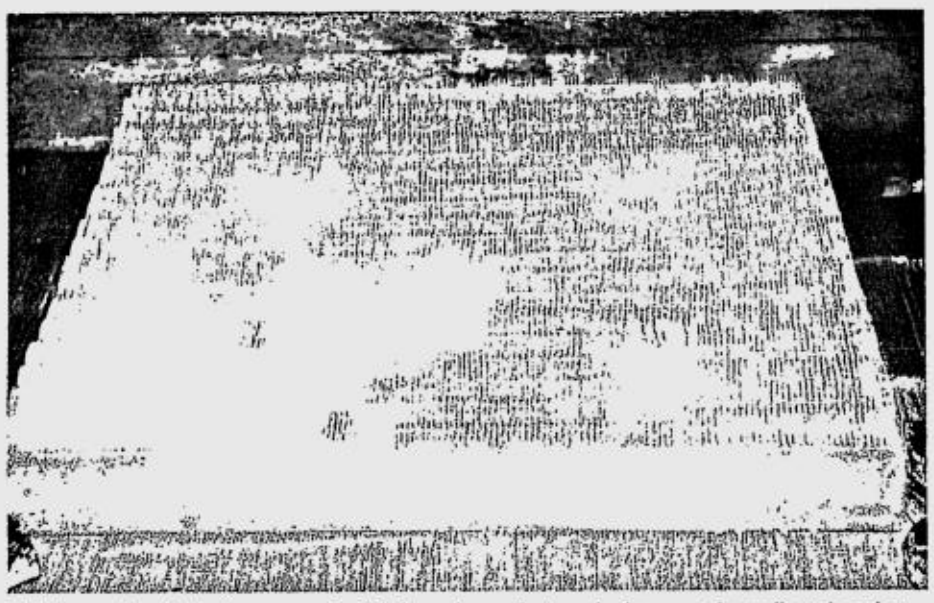
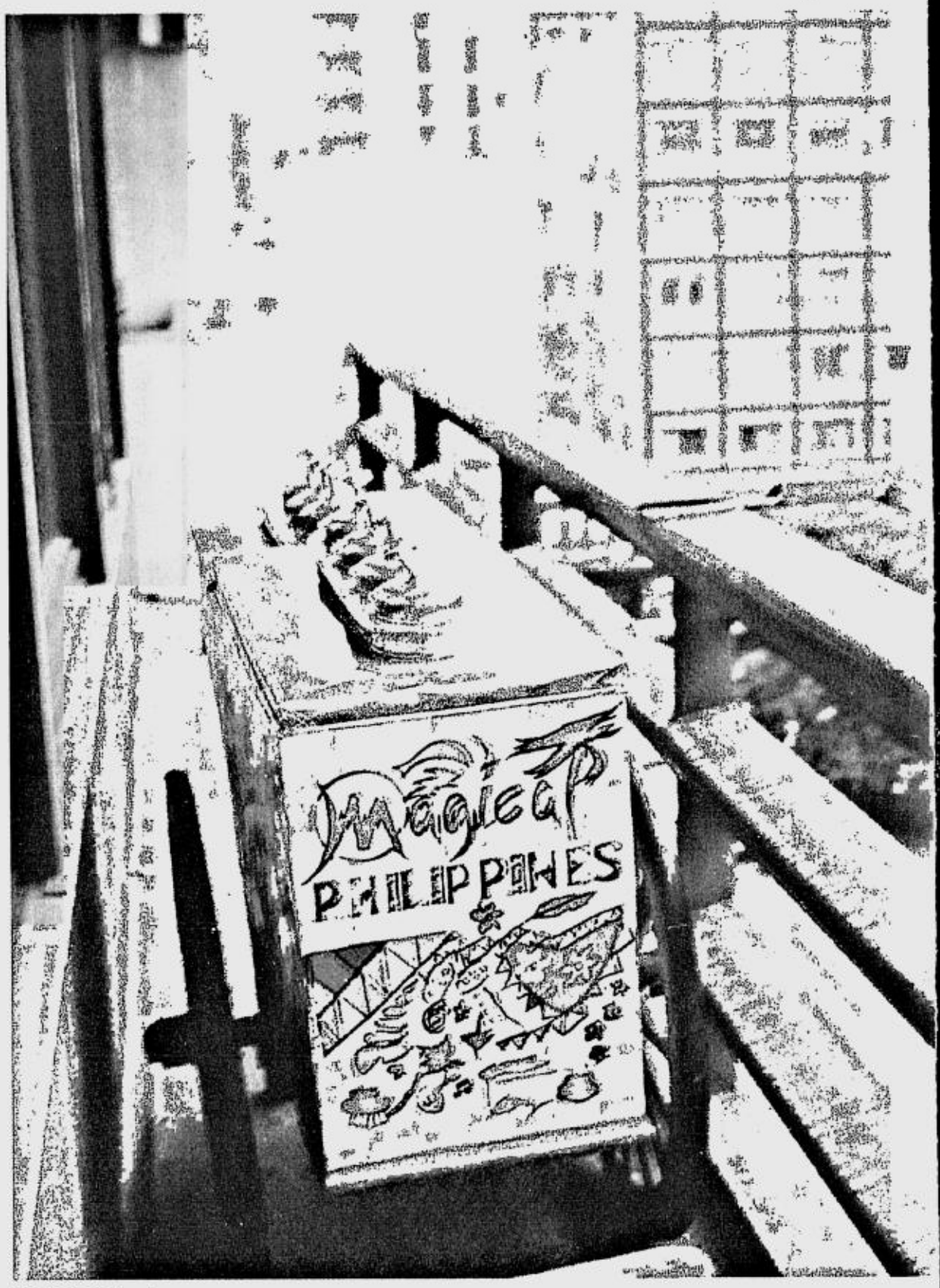
GLASS-TOPPED table and ottoman have "skirts" of narrow bamboo strips.



LUCBAN embroiderers added dainty pink ribbons to a delicate white lacy table runner.



THIN round *capiz* shells are used in this large lamp that can be hung on the wall or placed on the floor.



MANALO'S dirty ice cream cart is "garaged" in the narrow balcony of his flat overlooking a tree-lined avenue.

'Dirty' ice cream cart goes to Milan

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

WHEN about a hundred or so Filipinos in Milan got together before New Year at the flat of Romy Manalo, Philippine consul general in Italy's industrial and commercial center and ambassador-designate, there was a strong feeling of being home not just because they were among *kababayan* but also because the two-bedroom flat was filled with reminders of the Philippines.

Occupying pride of place, on this special occasion, was a colorful dirty ice cream cart. It was not, of course, the right season for ice cream—dirty or not. Even the traditional holiday spread here does not usually include ice cream. It was even less appropriate in Italy where it was freezing.

The cart was one of the Filipiniana pieces Manalo brought to the city when he was assigned there. Most days it is on display in the narrow balcony of Manalo's flat in a quieter part of Milan. But he plans to put it to use every time the Filipino community has a get-together, as there are people willing to bring the homemade "dirty" ice cream. Of course, what will actually be served, when they get around to filling it, will be more *gelato* than the Pinoy *sorbetes*.

Showcasing Pinoy artistry

Manalo's home is a modest showroom of well-designed and well-made furniture by Filipino craftsmen.

Although the diplomat's five-year stint in Bangkok—his assignment before his Milan posting—means more Thai than Pinoy pieces in his flat, the few he has should give visitors a good sampling of the creativity, ingenuity and skill of Filipino artisans.

The pieces show off the Filipinos' adeptness in mixing materials, using new ones and finding new twists to the familiar.

A large square capiz lamp, for instance, from exporter friend Al Caronan, is versatile enough to be hung on the wall or left on the floor (Manalo opted for the latter).

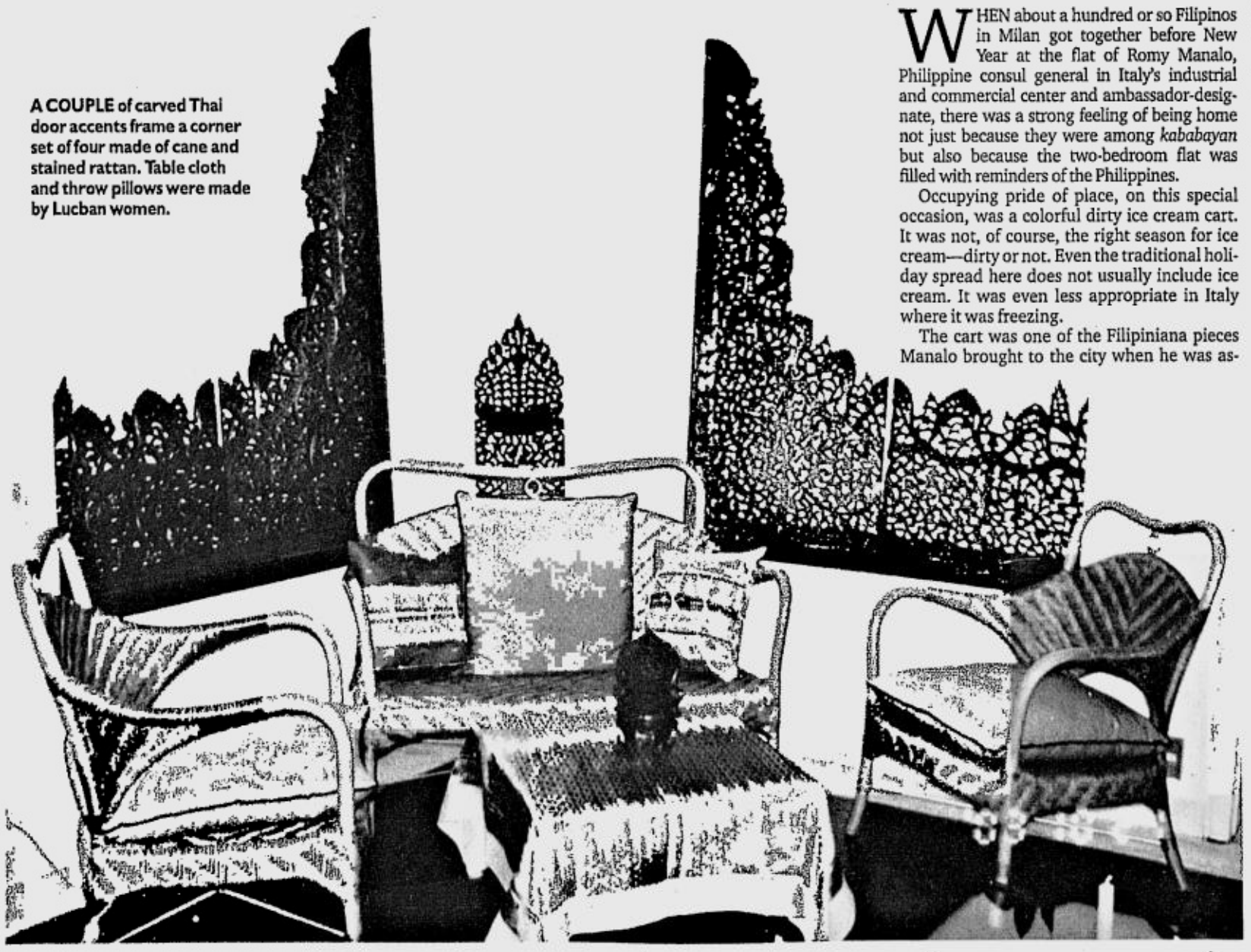
Seagrass and black and serpentine stone inlay make for an attractive console table at the hallway, topped by a mirror with a carved wooden frame.

A floor lamp's round shade is made of laminated coco shells, while a four-piece set in one corner of the longish reception area is made of cane and stained rattan.

Heavy black stone is also used for a lamp cum telephone stand, while a glass-topped coffee table as well as a two-seater with white cushion has a "skirt" of thin bamboo strips.

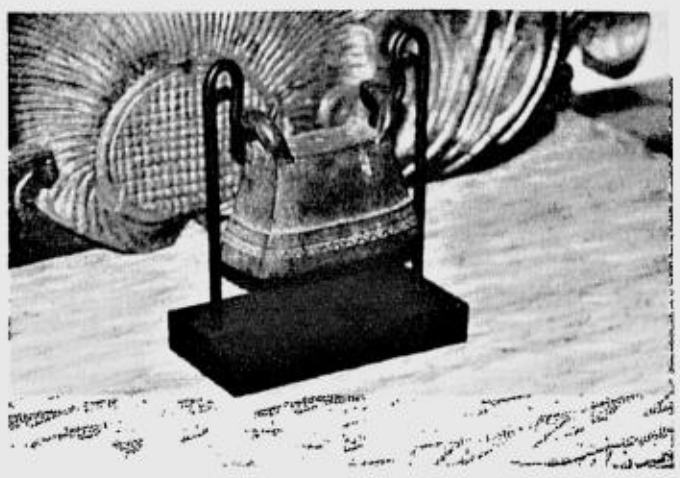
Manalo also has a selection of table runners, throw pillows and other items made by sewers/embroiderers from Lucban, Quezon.

In Manalo, the Philippines appears to have not just someone who proudly represents the Filipino people, but their arts and crafts as well.



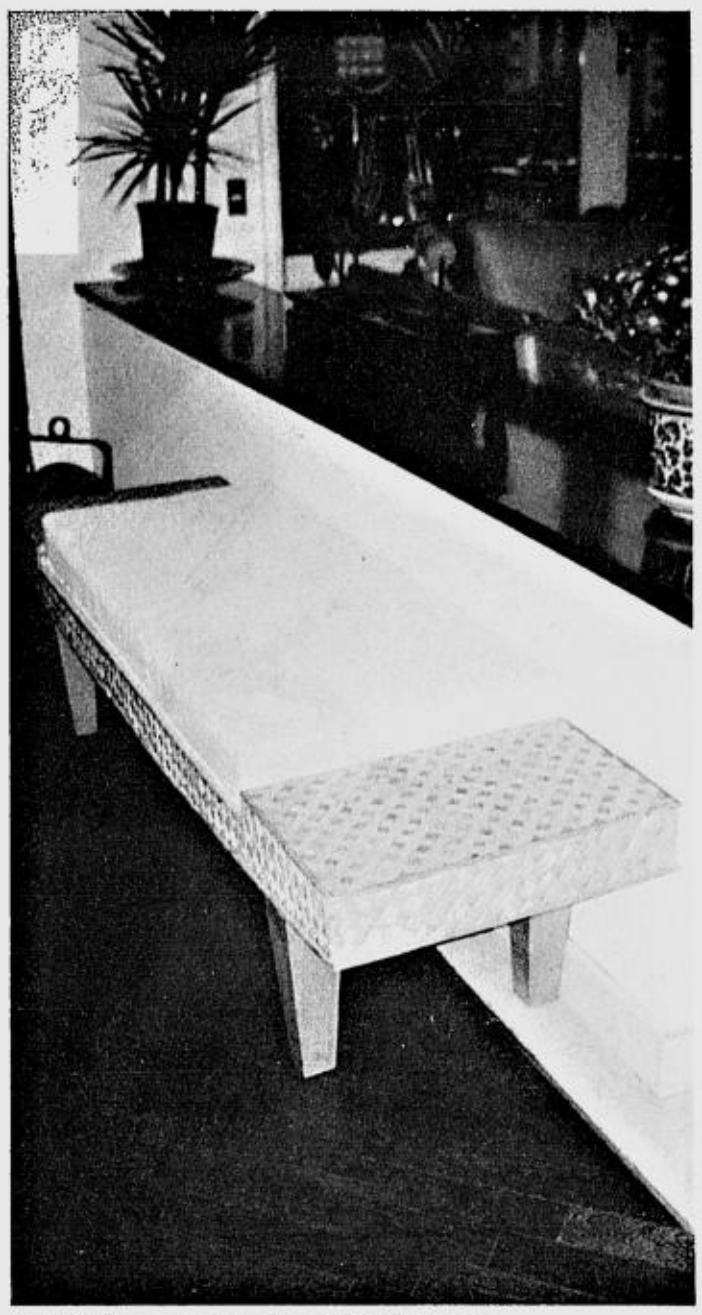
A COUPLE of carved Thai door accents frame a corner set of four made of cane and stained rattan. Table cloth and throw pillows were made by Lucban women.

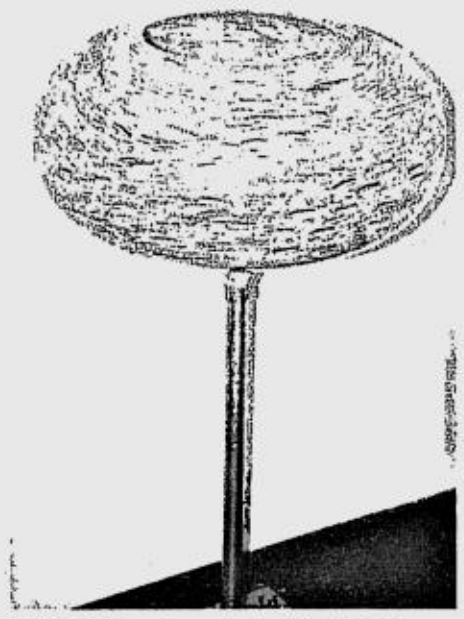
Although the ice cream is more 'gelato' than 'sorbetes,' it is served from the authentic and colorful two-wheeler that reminds Pinoys of home



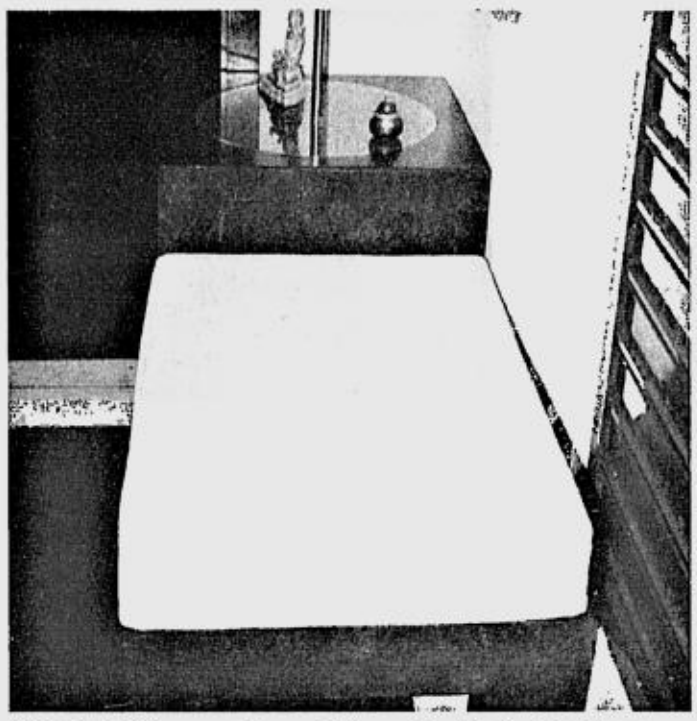
THE SEAGRASS top of a table in the hallway of Manalo's two-bedroom flat

BLEACHED seagrass provides a dramatic contrast in both texture and color to black and serpentine stones in this table. The mirror has an intricately carved heavy wooden frame.



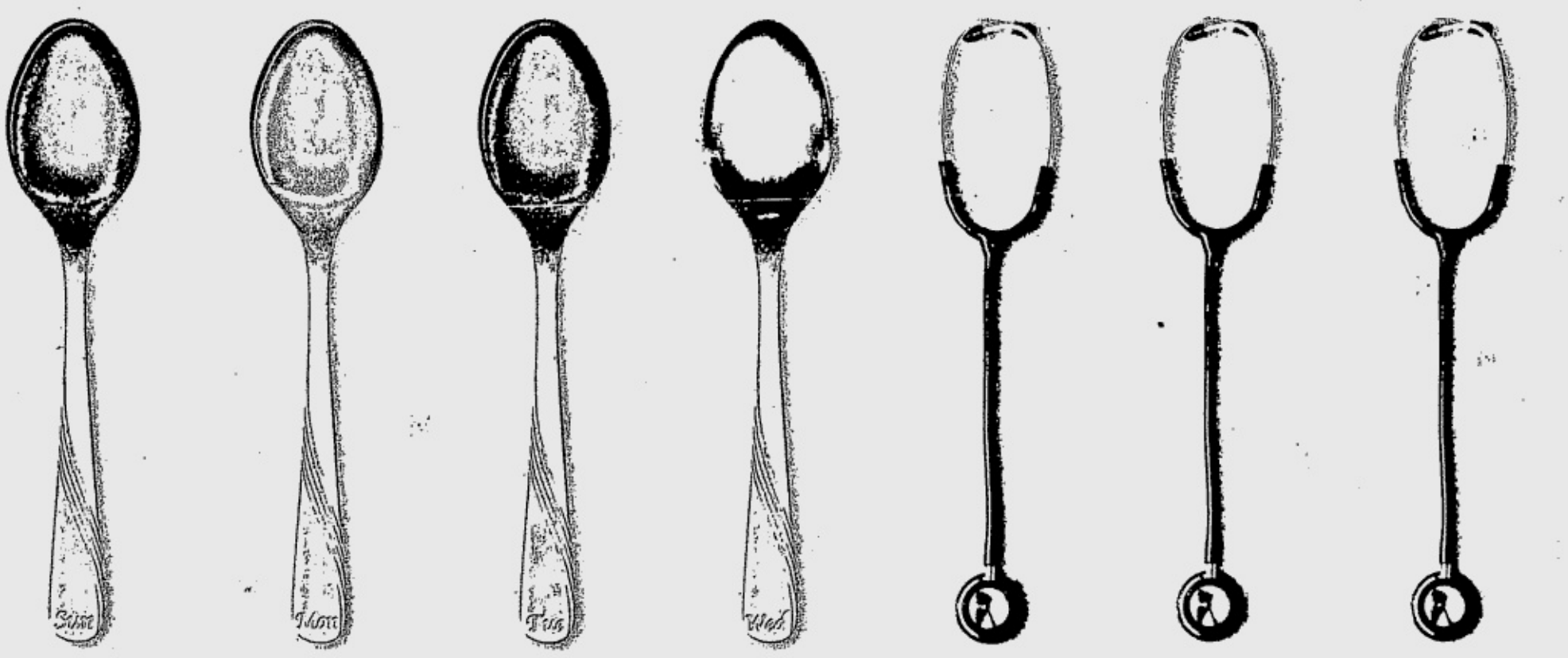


A FLOOR lamp has a shade of laminated coco shells.



WHITE upholstery provides a striking contrast to the black stone lamp/phone stand.

BLEACHED seagrass is used in this bench for two.



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SMART to non-SMART*	P7.50	P7.00	P6.50	P6.00	P5.50	P4.50
Text Fee after Free SMS	P1.00	P1.00	P0.50	P0.50	P0.50	P0.50
IDD Rate**			$0.40			

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Rates are inclusive of VAT and Foreign Currency Adjustment (FCA). Free text allocation applies to local text messages (SMART-to-SMART & SMART to other networks). Free call allocation applies to local calls (SMART-to-SMART, SMART to other networks, SMART to landline, and NDD calls).

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Love, Middle Earth style

By Doris Trinidad
Contributor

I have been enthralled by J.R.R. Tolkien since decades ago, when the movie version of "Lord of the Rings" was not even a gleam in Peter Jackson's eye. Of course I was elated that his trilogy had finally been made into a three-part movie, even though I knew that no movie could contain the grandeur of the real work.

As a faithful Tolkien fan I went to see all three parts of the trilogy for three successive years, ready to be awed by the spectacle of digital effects as well as to accept the alterations and omissions that are S.O.P. in such undertakings.

Nonetheless I must say I felt a particular feeling of lack in the portrayal of the two women in Aragorn's life—the Rohan princess Eowyn who desperately loved him, and Arwen, the daughter of elf king Elrond, with whom he fell in love when he was but a strapping lad of 20, and loved faithfully for the rest of his life.

Eowyn

Because Jackson chose to devote more footage to the awesome battle scenes, he merely glossed over the near-tragic love story of Eowyn, which is one of the most moving episodes of the trilogy. For those who have not read the books (how anyone could rave over the movies without having read the books is beyond me), I will try to picture Eowyn as she appeared in the book.

Eowyn, (a pure mortal woman as distinguished from other life forms in the book) first saw Aragorn when he was on the way to the Paths of the Dead, and though he was with the two sons of Elrond, both fair and handsome elf warriors, she had eyes only for Aragorn, who was tall and commanding with the unmistakable bearing of a warrior-king. When she learned of his plan to take the Paths of the Dead, she was stricken, and tried hard to dissuade him, fearing he was riding to certain death. When her entreaties could not move him, she fell on her knees and begged him to let her go along with him, but still he refused. At this point Aragorn had already realized with sorrow that this lovely maiden had somehow become infatuated with him, but because he could not return her love, he had to pretend he was unaware of it. But he gave her a hint of his emotional unavailability by saying, "Where I to go where my heart dwells, far in the north would I now be wandering in the fair valley of Rivendell."

Eowyn appeared to ponder what this might mean, perhaps already sensing a polite rebuff,

ARWEN, portrayed by Liv Tyler in the film version of the Tolkien trilogy, gives up her immortality for love.

and when Aragorn firmly refused to let her go with him, in bitterness and frustration she remained behind. Then she donned an armor, dressed as a man and fought in the Battle of Pellenor, obviously seeking both glory and death.

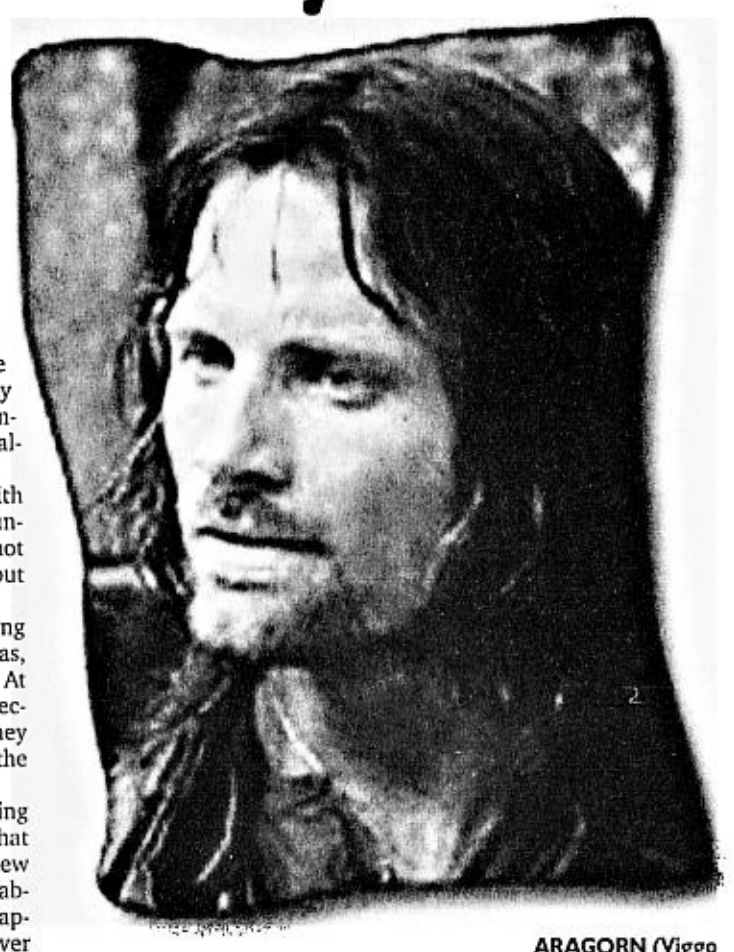
Here she was mortally wounded defending her father and killing the Nazgul, thus attaining the glory she sought, and almost attaining also the death she craved. But even though her own brother, Eomer, thought she was dead, it was found that she was alive but barely breathing. She was taken to the Houses of Healing. They also brought here Faramir, steward of Gondor, also a battle survivor, who was practically moribund.

Later, Faramir would fall in love with Eowyn, a love that seemed doomed to be unrequited because she was still suffering not only from the wound dealt by the Nazgul but more gravely, from a broken heart.

Aragorn came to the Houses of Healing and, using a magical herb called athelas, brought Faramir back to life and health. At this point all the more the people came to recognize Aragorn as their king, because they believed that "the hands of the King are the hands of a Healer."

But Aragorn had a harder time healing Eowyn, and he admitted to Eomer that "what ails her goes much further." Eomer, who knew of his sister's hopeless love, nevertheless absolved Aragorn of any blame for what happened, and Aragorn voiced his sorrow over the situation: "Few other griefs amid the ill chances of this world have more bitterness and shame for a man's heart than to behold the love of a lady so fair and brave that cannot be returned."

There is a beautiful scene on the balcony of the Houses of Healing after the Ring was destroyed and Sauron was toppled, when Eowyn began to respond to Faramir's love. Tolkien describes it: "Then the heart of Eowyn changed . . . and suddenly her winter passed."

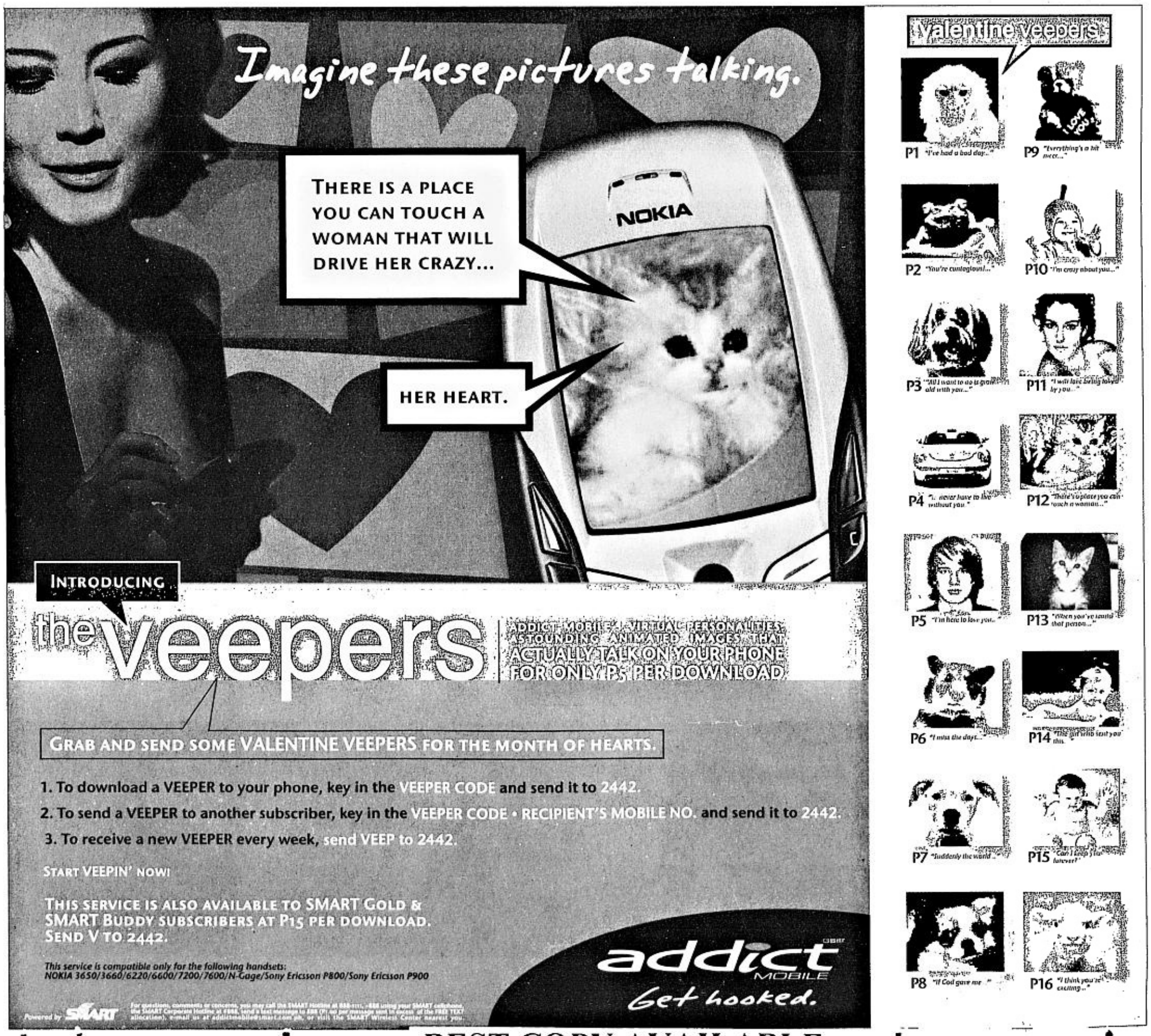


ARAGORN (Viggo Mortensen): tall, commanding and with the unmistakable bearing of a warrior-king

She also tells Faramir, "I no longer want to become Queen." Faramir laughs and answers, "That is good, because I am not a king." At the grand funeral of her uncle, Theoden, the late king of Rohan, Eowyn is able at last to look King Aragorn in the eye and say to him, "Wish me joy, my liege lord and healer."

And Aragorn answers. "I have wished thee joy ever since I first saw thee. It heals my heart to see thee now in bliss." How one wishes

LOVE/ E3



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NEW AGE section of the newly opened PowerBooks in Greenbelt 4. Reading in the premises is most welcome. Comfy couches are provided for shoppers who like to sit and flip through books leisurely.

ROOMY children's books section, furnished with colorful counting mats plus kiddie-size benches and desks, makes reading a fun experience for tots.

A bookstore that looks good, feels good and reads good

WORD POWER. Wide assortment of books includes a special section on art and architecture

GABBY Licauco, PowerBooks operations manager

A NEW bookstore in town is always welcome news but a well-appointed, well-stocked one is always a source of sheer joy.

If, like the PowerBooks flagship store at 2/L of Greenbelt 4, it is 1,450 sq m of the largest and most diverse collection of books and spacious reading areas furnished with comfortable couches and armchairs, how can you stay away?

At its opening recently, PowerBooks Specialty Store Live! invited guests to experience the store's unique interactive-based design philosophy through the activities happening at each of its book sections.

At the Cooking section, where a workable kitchen was installed, Vicky Veloso-Barrera held a cooking demonstration. The more artistically inclined guests lined up to have their caricatures drawn at the Art and Architecture section, while outdoor enthusiasts attended the flower arranging demo courtesy of Petal Patch held at the Gardening section. Kids had their share of fun at the storytelling and arts and crafts session held at the Children's section.

Customers on the lookout for a specific book can check out the PowerBooks special order service. Other services include book reservations, free delivery, gift certificates, institutional accounts, bridal and birthday registry, and the PowerBooks discount card called Powercard.

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BRIGHT, brave new world of books, magazines and other reading materials sports sleek and modern design.

COOKING lessons from award-winning cookbook author and chef Vicky Veloso-Barrera

FLOWER POWER. The ladies of Petal Patch demonstrate floral arrangements on opening day.

Buying time

WHEN buying a watch for your loved one, remember these tips shared by Time Depot.

If your man happens to be gadget-oriented and loves tinkering around with computers or the VCR, a top choice may be a high-tech Casio digital watch with those funky little features.

If he is particular about his appearance, any of the fine selection of the new cK men's watches that combine bold design with a discreet luxury may please him.

For the sports buff, Suunto, a Finnish brand with state-of-the-art features suited for particular sports like mountain-climbing, sailing or running will come in handy. Another worthy choice is Nautica, which seamlessly merges refined technology with rugged appeal.

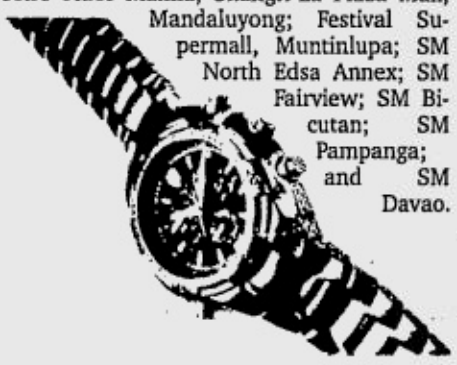
Ladies, meanwhile, continue to favor a precious, ornamental look with faces that are not as information-rich as men's watches, but have varied colors.

The most modern and elegant models for women come with mother-of-pearl watch faces in pink, blue and lilac with cases covered in diamonds or precious stones.

If your girl is the type who loves to dress up and accessorize, give her Casio timepieces with cutting-edge designs and colored straps to suit whatever outfit she wears.

The urban sophisticate can choose between a steel bracelet watch or a fine watch on a leather band, or even on a leather string and worn as a pendant, as exemplified by the cK watch collection.

Time Depot is at Rockwell, Makati; Robinson's Place Manila; Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong; Festival Supermall, Muntinlupa; SM North Edsa Annex; SM Fairview; SM Bicutan; SM Pampanga; and SM Davao.



NAUTICA watch with chrono alarm, in titanium case and bracelet, matte gray dial with orange inner ring, and date

Style magazine gets makeover

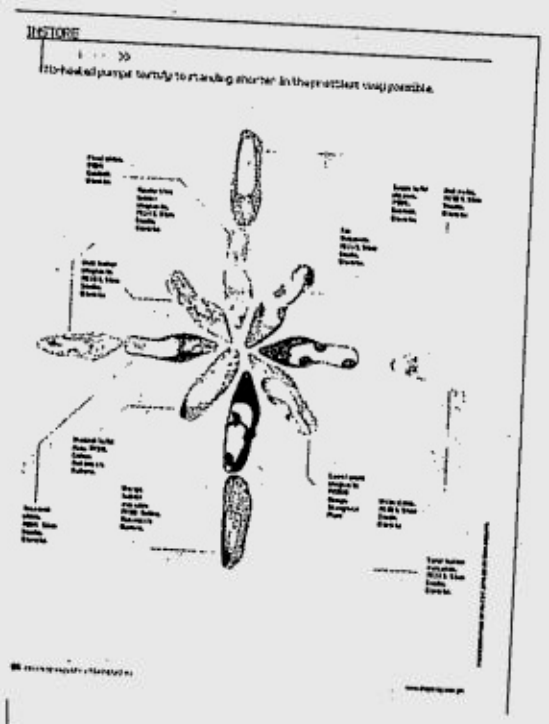
PREVIEW gets a new look for 2004.

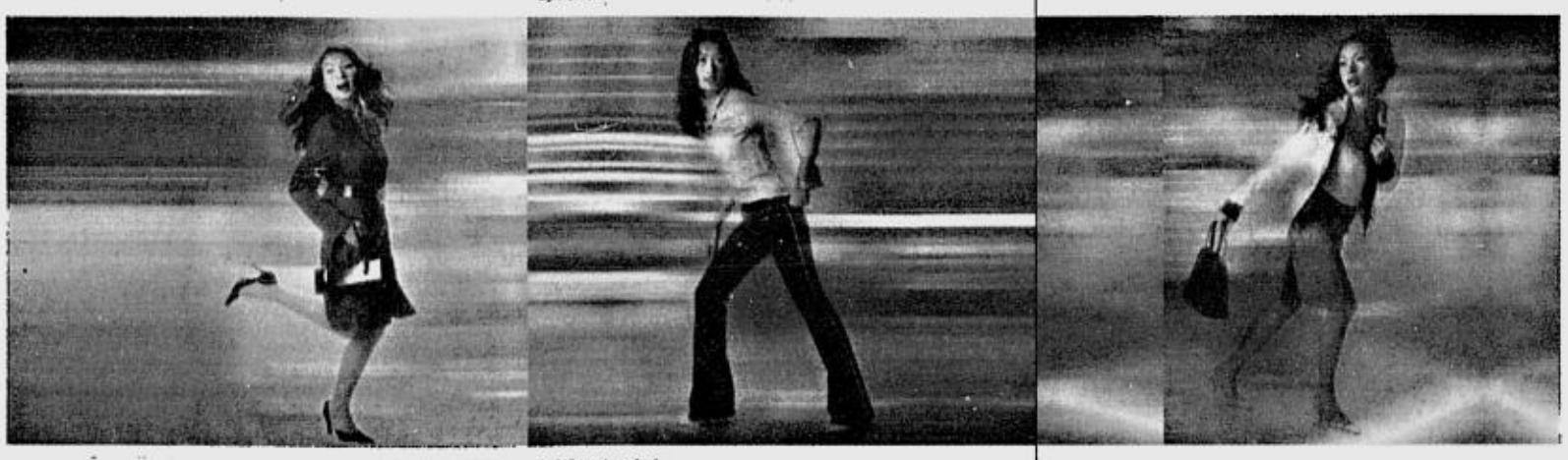
New creative director Adrian Calumpang, a graduate of the Central St. Martin's College of Art and Design in London, said everything in the new Preview had a function. Colors and fonts were chosen to be directional devices to focus readers' attention. Bright colors and white space are meant to create more energy and excitement. More illustrations are used.

Preview tries to project a look that is clean, vibrant, sophisticated, playful, sleek but edgy.

Editor in chief Pauline Suaco-Juan is happy with the makeover. She said the magazine had become a more mature, polished product.

Despite the new look and new style, Preview's goal remains the same—to promote a distinct and discerning lifestyle.





Love, Middle Earth style

From page E1

these inner battles of the heart had been captured on film!

Arwen

Arwen is altogether something else. She possesses the gift of bodily immortality, which precludes aging and death. When she and Aragorn first met on the fields of Rivendell, Aragorn thought he had strayed into a dream, so indescribably lovely was she, her long dark hair streaming into the night and jewels on her brow that shone like stars.

Though Tolkien says Aragorn was 20 years old at the time, we are not given any idea of Arwen's age. Elves have lived long in Middle Earth without showing signs of aging. Galadriel is many aeons old, but her beauty overwhelms even the dwarf Gimli. Anyway, here was one true instance when age didn't matter, because it was love at first sight for our hero and his future queen. Yet both realized that there was a price to pay for such love between mortal and elf.

Arwen had to give up her immortality and ultimately die a human death.

Elrond knew (elves have the third eye, perhaps a fourth or a fifth to boot) what was going on between his daughter and Aragorn whom he had raised as his son and, though not really angry, he would not give up his daughter that easily.

He spoke to Aragorn before the latter left for some battle and told him firmly that Arwen who was descended from a long line of kings would be his only when Sauron had been defeated and Aragorn had been crowned king of Gondor.

Throughout many succeeding chapters of the struggles of the fellowship of the Ring, Arwen is hardly mentioned but sometimes Aragorn would just pause and turn silent, facing the direction of Rivendell, and we know he and Arwen are somehow communicating mind to mind, as elves do.

Though Aragorn is human, we presume Arwen has taught him this knack of psychic interchange. Talk of long-distance romance, this takes the cake.

When Aragorn was 49 years old, he chanced to pass by Lorien, the magical palace of the elf queen Galadriel, Arwen's relative on her mother's side, and it happened that Arwen was there. Galadriel made Aragorn shed off the worn and tattered raiments of battle and garbed him in the silver and gold raiment of a king. And when Arwen saw Aragorn thus, resplendent and fully matured in manhood, she gave up her elven immortality and betrothed herself to him. The lovers spent some time in the faery kingdom of Galadriel before being parted again by the war against Sauron.

Tolkien, besides successfully suspending our disbelief in the world he created, also demolishes our ordinary concept of time. We don't know how many years in our calendar time elapsed before the Ring was finally destroyed and Aragorn became king. There was one instance when Arwen's brothers arrived bearing a folded standard or flag and we know it was one that Arwen had been making in secret during all the years they had been apart.

It was fashioned of some magical stuff called mithril (Remember the coat Bilbo gave to Frodo which kept him alive when the orcs attacked him? This is the same material.) on which she had embroidered a silver tree crowned by seven glittering starlike jewels. The tree symbolized the king of Gondor, i.e. Aragorn, and the jewels stood for her, Arwen, who was called by her people Undomiel, or Evenstar. This gift was to show Aragorn that throughout their long separation he was always in her thoughts.

This banner was unfurled when Aragorn was finally crowned King. Yet unlike in the movie version, the wedding of Arwen and Aragorn did not take place immediately. In the book it said that Aragorn was waiting for a sign. What that sign was we surmise when Gandalf took Aragorn to a distant mountain where, growing in a deep crevice he saw a sapling of a lovely tree with silver leaves. This he took and planted in the courtyard of Minas Tirith, and as the sapling flourished, Aragorn posted sentries as lookouts for something about to happen. And soon around midsummer they espied a procession of elves headed for the palace, and Aragorn smiled and knew that at last Arwen would become his bride. Thus, though it was such bitter grief for Elrond to lose his daughter for all eternity, the wedding was celebrated with joy in all the kingdom.

Both the books and the movies end here, but trust Tolkien to write an epilogue for us insatiable diehards who must know what happens next.

According to Appendix A, Aragorn ruled Middle Earth wisely and well, had many sons and daughters and lived to the ripe old age of 210.

But at last he grew weary of his life and decided to lay it down while he was still strong and able. He called Arwen to the House of Kings on Silent Street and lay down on the long bed that was reserved for him.

Arwen could not keep herself from pleading that he stay a while longer, for she herself was not yet weary of her days. The Doom of Men lay too heavily on her heart, and even if she at that moment was tempted to overturn her choice to relinquish her immortality, there was no more ship to take her to the Havens. And hence to the Undying Lands . . . Aragorn called his eldest son, handed him the winged crown of Gondor, and said his goodbyes. Though Tolkien (a Roman Catholic) never mentions in this tale the immortality of the human soul as opposed to the eternal twilight of the elves, he consoles Arwen, "In sorrow we must go, but not in despair. Behold, we are not bound forever to the circles of the world, and beyond them is more than memory."

Then Aragorn closed his eyes and died. With his death Arwen's light seemed to fade. She, too, bade goodbye to her children and hied herself off to Lorien, the once fabulous citadel of Galadriel, but it was empty now and silent.

Tolkien writes in almost-poetry of her death. "There at last when the mallorn leaves were falling . . . she laid herself to rest upon Cerin Amroth, and there is her green grave, until the world is changed, and elanor and niphredil bloom no more east of the Sea."

EOWYN (Miranda Otto)

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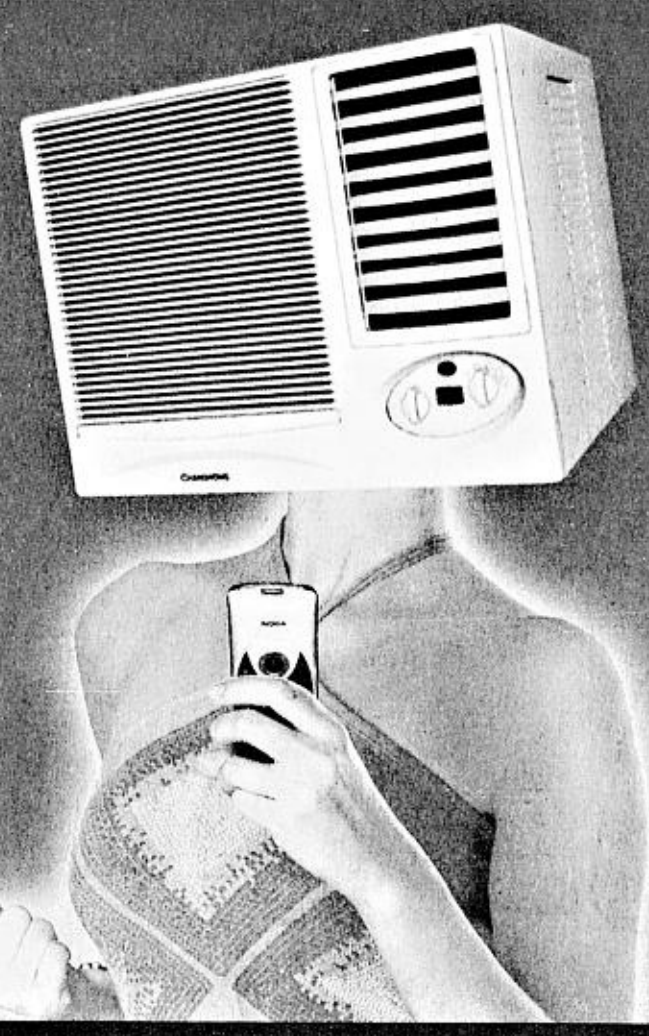

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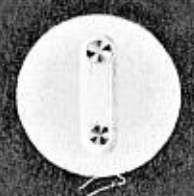

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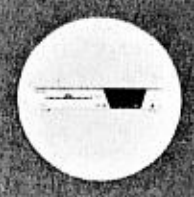

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214	Rivermaya	TONE 214
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Turn Me On	Kevin Lyttle	TONE TURNME
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Truly Madly Deeply	Savage Garden	TONE TRULYMAD
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This Time	Freestyle	TONE THISTIME
Pangako	Ogie Alcasid	TONE PANGAKO
Harana	Parokya Ni Edgar	TONE HARANA
I Will Be There	Kyla	TONE WILL BE
No Letting Go	Wayne Wonder	TONE NOLET
Is It Okay If I Call You Mine	Paul McCrane	TONE CALLUMINE
I'll Be	Edwin McCain	TONE IBE
My Girl	Westlife	TONE MYGIRL
Can't Lose You	F4	TONE CANTLOSE
Never Had A Dream Come True	S Club 7	TONE NEVERHAD
Got To Believe In Magic	David Pomeranz	TONE INMAGIC
Clarity	John Mayer	TONE CLARITY
Let Me Be The One	Mandy Moore	TONE LETMEBE
Baby I'm In Love	Thalia	TONE BABYIM
If You're Not The One	Daniel Bedingfield	TONE IFYOURNOT
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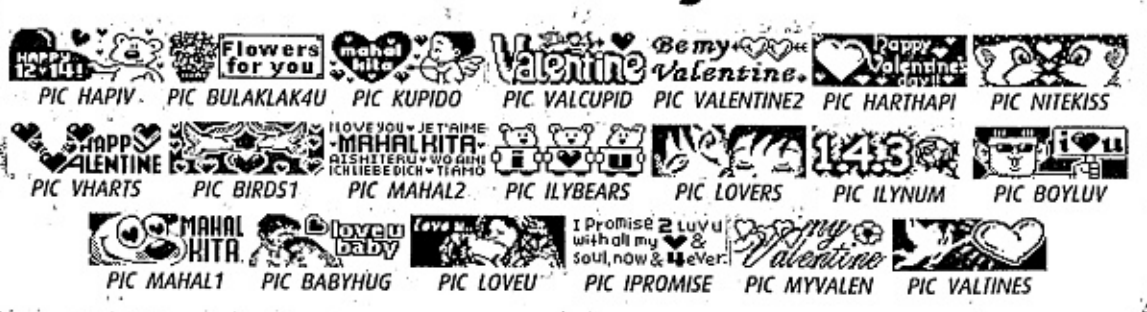

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NEWLYWEDS Junboy and Gina (née Ocampo) Leonor

LEONOR-OCAMPO NUPTIALS

Postcard-pretty wedding on a hill

By Donnie C. Ramirez
Contributor

THE SUN cast a warm and mellow glow that fine Saturday afternoon when Junboy Leonor took Gina Ocampo as his wife.

The groom is the last among the children of popular couple Domingo "Jun" Leonor and Nene Santos-Leonor to marry. His adoring parents and siblings took extra loving care to make it a memorable event.

Bishop Federico Escaler, D.D., with Fr. Jovi Sebastian as concelebrant, officiated the wedding, at the sprawling gardens of Ginger Hill, the picture-perfect vacation house of the Santos-Rodriguez family in Lian, Batangas. Perched on top of a hill, it looks out to the famous beaches of Matabungkay and, farther away, the blue waters of China Sea.

Family and friends made a long caravan from Manila for the event. The early arrivals enjoyed a sumptuous *merienda* of native delicacies like *tamales, bibingka* and *puto* while waiting for the nuptial rites to begin.

The radiant bride, in an exquisite Patrice Ramos-Diaz gown, walked down a petal-strewn path. A corporate sales executive at Globe Telecom, Gina is the daughter of the late Ateneo de Manila University basketball standout Ed Ocampo and the former Lulu Trinidad.

Principal sponsors were Luis Ablaza and Tereret Tambunting-Liboro, Fernando Ocampo Jr. and Josie Lichauco, Junie Rodriguez and Consul Helen Ong, artist Mauro Malang Santos and Fe Rodriguez, Bombing Trinidad and Juliet Romualdez, Rep. Willie Villarama and Chit Salud, Pagoda Philippines president Ernie Yu and Bootsie Violago.

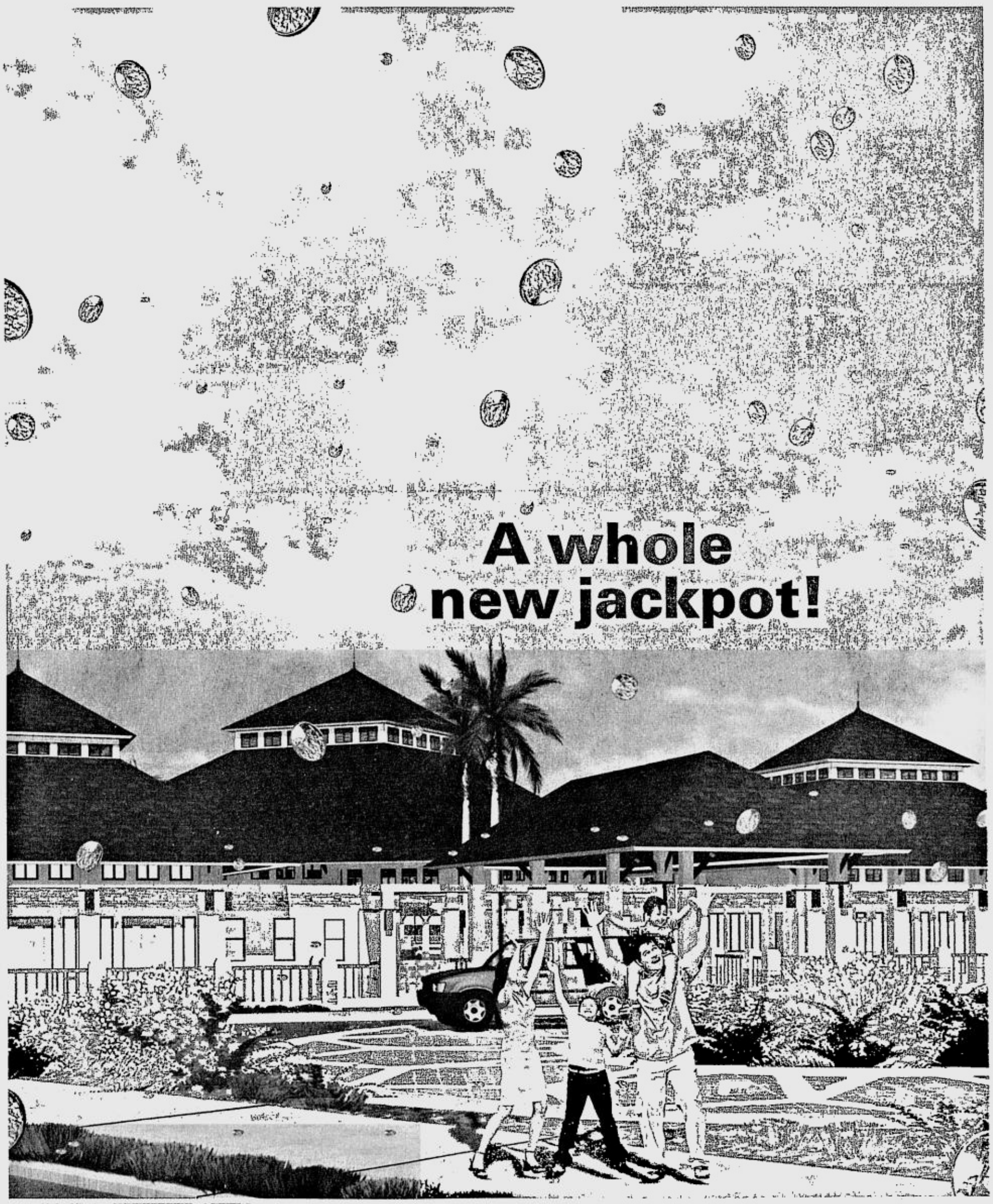
The groom's brother Dennis was best man and the bride's bosom pal, Debbie Ledesma, was matron of honor.

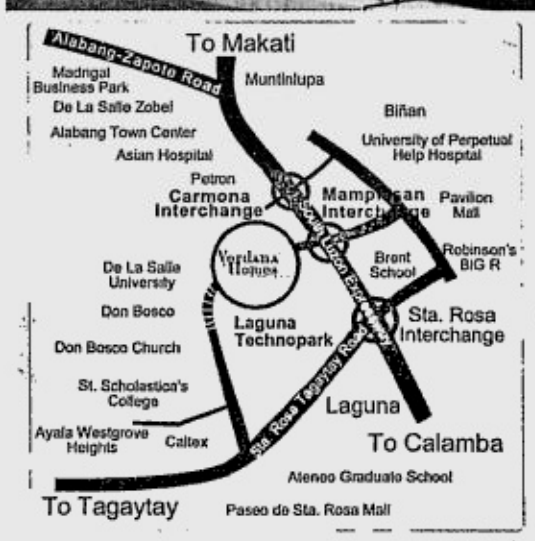
Junior bridesmaids were Shalica Cruz, Mara Francisco and Angela Leonor.

The other secondary sponsors were Dina Villasor and Teo Ocampo (veil), Lia Colayco and Brum Ledesma (candle) and Cris Bonoan and Alvin Ocampo (cord). The little attendants were

POSTCARD/ F2

A whole new jackpot!





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POSTCARD/ F2

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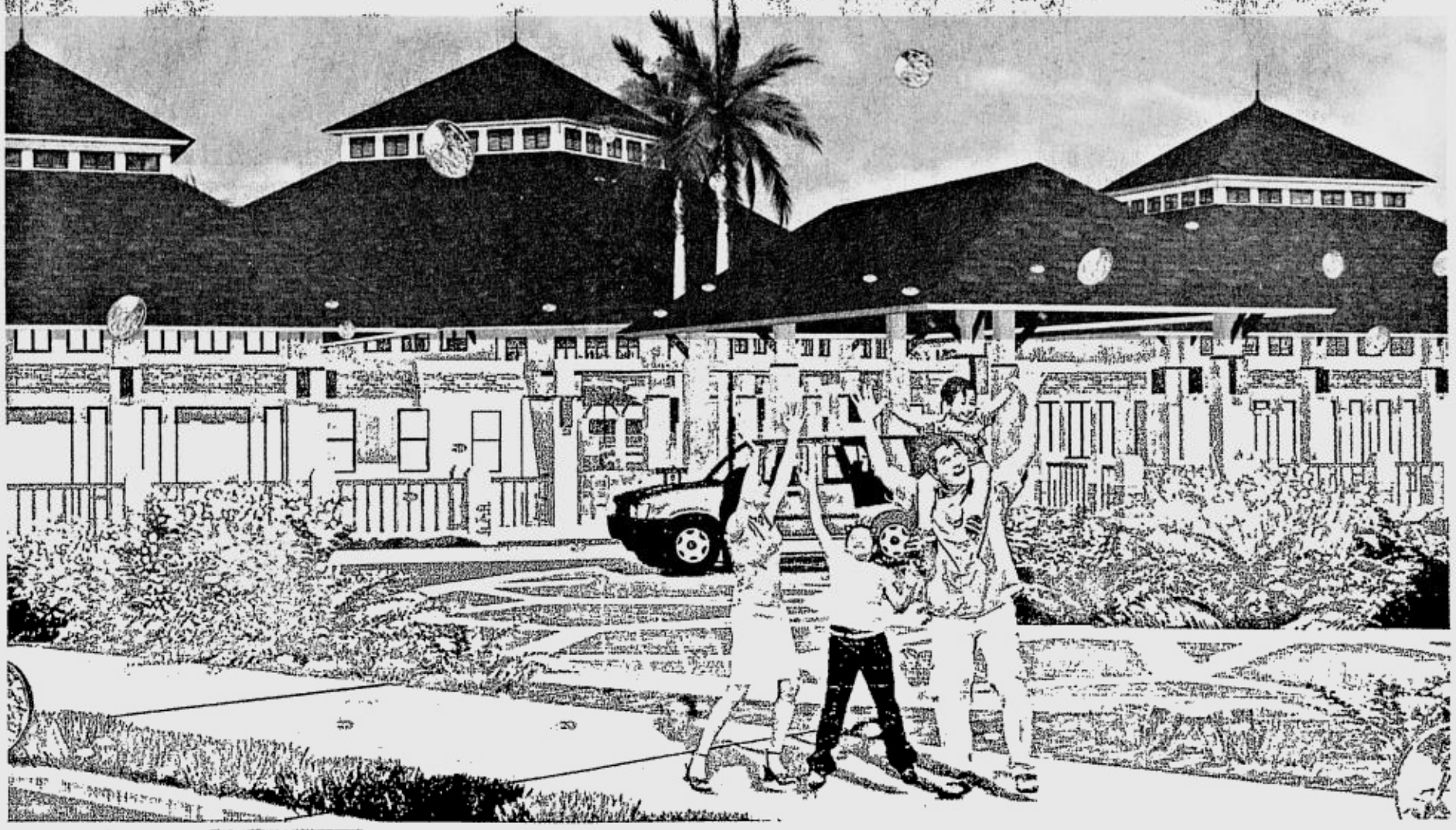

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WITH PRINCIPAL sponsors Fe Rodriguez, Bootsie Violago, Helen Ong, Josie Lichauco, Tereret Liboro, Junie Rodriguez, Luis Ablaza, Mauro Malang Santos, Rep. Willie Villarama, Fernando Ocampo Jr. and Ernie Yu

Postcard-pretty wedding on a hill

WITH THE BRIDE'S brother Mickey Ocampo, mom Lulu Trinidad Ocampo and the groom's parents Nene and Jun Leonor

OGIE Narvasa and Irene Salud

MIA Puyat-Leonor with daughter Monica

PINKY Amador with Jeena and Ernie Lopez

LAWYER Martin Romualdez

From page F1

Hana Villasor, Sasha Garcia, Yana Garcia, Andrew Leonor, Joaquin Ocampo and Kean Cruz.

Flower girl Clara Leonor stole the show when she danced and tiptoed like a young ballerina as she scattered white roses along the aisle.

Members of the liturgical team were lector Mailet Bonoan, readers Gian Aboitiz and Boompy Martel. Offerings were made by Andy Cruz, Lia Fernandez, Jett Pangan, Eena Kanapi, JR and Anne Ramos and Jimbo Aragon.

Bacolod City Councilor Caloy Balcells led the Responsorial Psalm and Inna Eusebio the Prayer of the Faithful.

The reception was held in the manicured garden where three huge white tents were set up. Cabalen Restaurant laid out a splendid Filipino fare. Later, the guests were entertained by singers Pinky Amador, Jimbo Aragon, JR Ramos, Rem Zamora and Lyn Sherman who sang a specially arranged version of "When Doves Cry." Mia Puyat-Leonor, wife of the groom's brother Dennis, surprised the guests with a very good rendition of the Four Non-Blondes cover "What's Up."

The romantic evening was capped by the performance of The Dawn, the popular rock group of which the groom is a founding member. Appropriately, the band's final number was the U2 monster hit "Beautiful Day."

For Junboy and Gina, it was truly a wonderful beginning to their new life as husband and wife.

WITH SECONDARY sponsors Dina Villasor, Cris Bonoan, Lia Colayco, Brum Ledesma, Alvin Ocampo and Teo Ocampo

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

MASCAREÑAS-FABROS

Paul Edward T. Mascareñas, son of **Santiago** and **Teresita Mascareñas**, exchanged vows recently with **Mary Michelle A. Fabros**, daughter of **Romelle** and **Agnes Fabros**, at Santuario de San Jose. Reception followed at the Quezon Ballroom of Makati Shangri-la . **Francis Calaquian** designed the bridal gown.

CORTEL-GAUDIA

Jerome B. Cortel, son of **Felix** and **Pompeia Cortel** of Davao City, tied the knot recently with **Jennifer Ann Gaudia**, daughter of **Wilfredo** and **Erlinda Gaudia** of Quezon City, at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, Pasay City. Reception followed at the Heritage Hotel. The bride and her entourage wore gowns by **Malu Veloso**.

LAGMAN-MINASE

Jose Angelo O. Lagman, son of **Noel** and **Natividad Lagman**, recently married **Rovi Mari Minase**, daughter of **Romeo** and **Vida Minase**, at the St. John Bosco Parish, Laguna Technopark, Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Reception followed at the Sta. Elena Guest House, Sta. Elena Golf Club, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

GACAY-GUIRINDOLA

Dr. Jess Godofred C. Gacay, son of SPO4 **Desiderio** and **Sonie Gacay**, recently married **Grace M. Guirindola**, daughter of **Zafiro** and **Rosela Guirindola**, at Our Lady of Remedies Parish, Malate. Reception followed at Puerta Real Gardens, Intramuros, Manila. **Jontie Martinez** designed the bridal gown.

CASTRO-CAISIP

Capt. **Rodolfo D. Castro Jr.**, son of **Rodolfo Sr.** and **Rosita Castro**, recently tied the knot with Dr. **Sherry Ann V. Caisip**, daughter of Gen. **Rodolfo Sr.** and **Carmelita Caisip**, at the Archbishop's Chapel, Villa San Miguel, Mandaluyong City. Bishop **Socrates Villegas** officiated at the wedding. Reception followed at the Heritage Hotel, Pasay City.

BERNARDINO-TAPEL

Roderick Bernardino, son of **Natividad Abellera vda. de Bernardino**, recently married **Racquel Tapel** at the San Isidro Labrador Parish Church in Las Piñas City. The parents of the bride, **Ramon** and **Aida Tapel**, created the gowns of the bride and the entourage.

AGCAOILI-GALICIA

Patricia T. Galicia and **Juan Gabriel E. Agcaoili** recently exchanged vows at the altar of St. Patrick's Church on Mission St., San Francisco, California.

MURIEL-AQUINO

Dr. **Lyndon D. Muriel**, son of **Rodolfo** and **Linda Muriel**, will marry **Melanie S. Aquino**, daughter of **Narciso** and **Marietta Aquino**, on Feb. 21 at the Holy Cross Parish, Chapel 2, Clark Field, Pampanga. Reception will follow at the Grand Ballroom, Holiday Inn Resort, Clark Field.

The bride will wear a Maria Clara-inspired gown of beige duchess satin, embellished with glass beads, sequins and Swarovski crystals. The wedding motif is periwinkle blue and canary yellow.

UYTIEPO 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Bert and **Corona Uytiepo** celebrated their golden wedding anniversary by renewing their vows on Feb. 13 at the chapel of St. Michael the Archangel in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. Reception followed at the New Army Officers' Club, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

Eric Pineda designed the bride's gown in ecru silk crepe. The bodice featured tulip sleeves and was traced with gold caviar beads, faux pearls and rhinestones.

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

COROTAN-GALLARDO

Jeorge Corotan, son of **Rolando** and **Patricia Corotan**, will tie the knot with **Garet Gallardo**, daughter of **Margarito** and **Clarita Gallardo**, on March 6 at the Sta. Maria de la Strada Parish, Katipunan Avenue, QC. Reception will follow at the Acropolis Clubhouse, QC.

DALISAY-DARIA

Marie Elaine Daria, daughter of **Francisco Daria** and the late **Luzviminda Daria**, will marry **Apolinar Dalisay Jr.**, son of the late **Apolinar Sr.** and **Caridad Dalisay**, on Feb. 18 at Our Lady of the Abandoned Parish Church, Marikina. Reception will follow at Bulwagan ng mga Bayani, Kapitan Moy, Marikina.

CHO-MATIAS

Myla Rey-Matias, daughter of **Virgilio** and Dr. **Milagros Matias**, will exchange vows with **Michael Cho**, son of Mr. and Ms **Won Cho**, today at the Church of Transfiguration, Caleruega Batangas. Reception will follow at the Clubhouse of Canyon Woods Resort, Laurel, Batangas.

Eric Pineda designed the bride's gown in ivory duchess satin.

Wedding industry seminars

THIS February, Businessmaker Academy (BMA) will launch a series of one-day seminars that will guide participants in venturing into the country's lucrative wedding industry.

Designed for wedding planners, suppliers and even "do-it-ourselves" engaged couples, the seminars will offer practical advice, enjoyable learning activities and source guides.

The courses include:

Creative Weddings (For Engaged Couples and Wedding Planners), Feb. 26—"Make Dream Weddings Come True." Arm yourself with practical tips, schedule templates and checklists, wedding planner's guide and a comprehensive sourcebook of suppliers.

Creative Photography for Fun and Profit, Feb. 19—"Snap Away and Take Memorable Wedding Photos." Learn to work with a basic film and a digital camera, understand camera parts and tools, discover basic composition and lighting techniques that can enhance images and find out if you would like to pursue this craft for fun or for profit.

Creative Box Art, Feb. 19—"Box-making and Packaging Ideas for Wedding Favors and Mementos." Learn how to make eye-catching gift items with box art lessons and effective packaging ideas.

Creative Keepsakes and Souvenirs for Fun and Profit, Feb. 27—"Celebrate Memories with Timeless Souvenirs." Discover ways to create exciting products that you can sell as wedding gifts or souvenirs.

These courses are held at Suite 1503A West Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Bldg., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong, and are open to the public for a minimal fee. Classes are also available for group bookings.

Other courses on business skills, livelihood, arts and crafts are also available. Call 6874445/3416/4645 or visit www.businessmaker-academy.com

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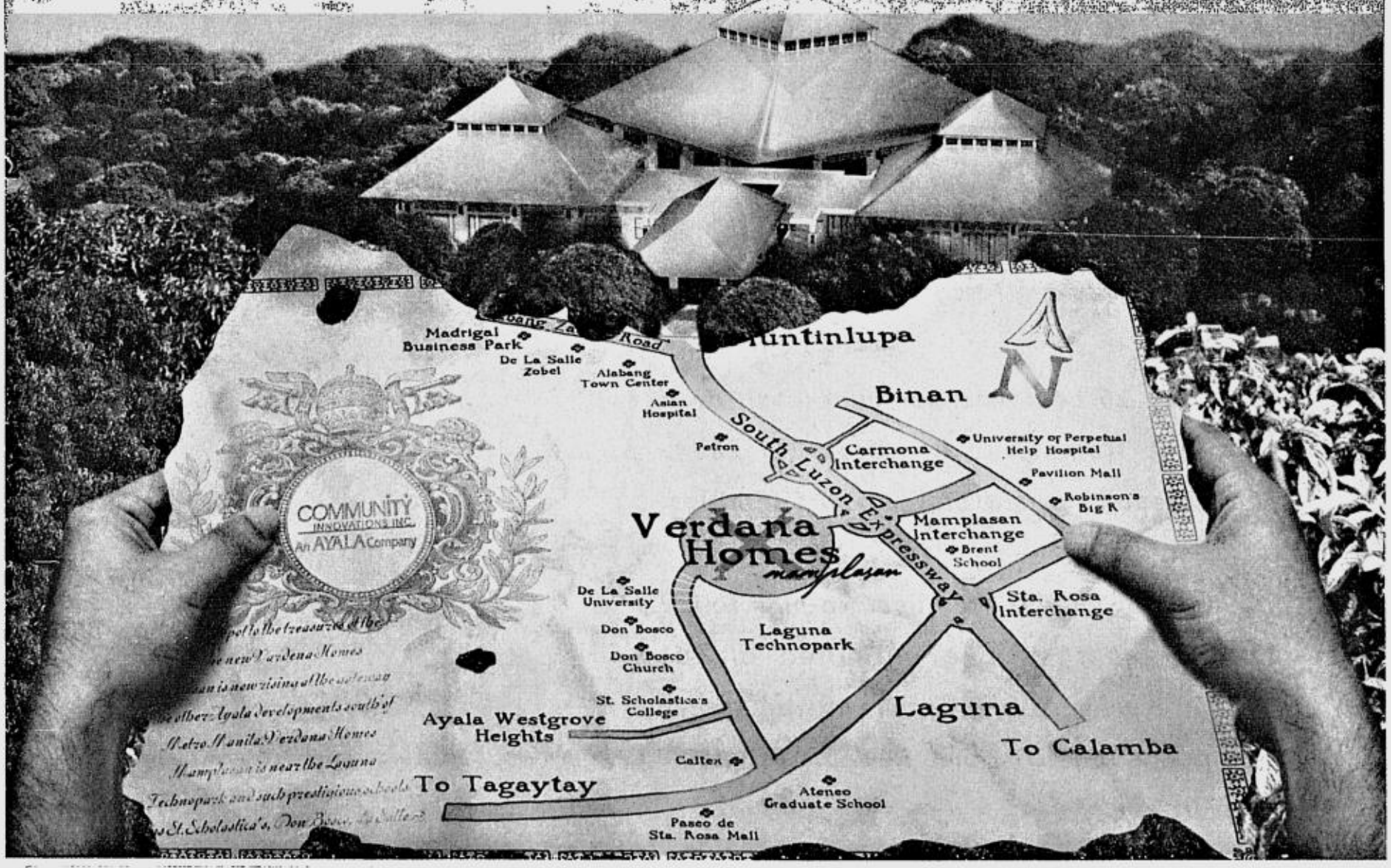

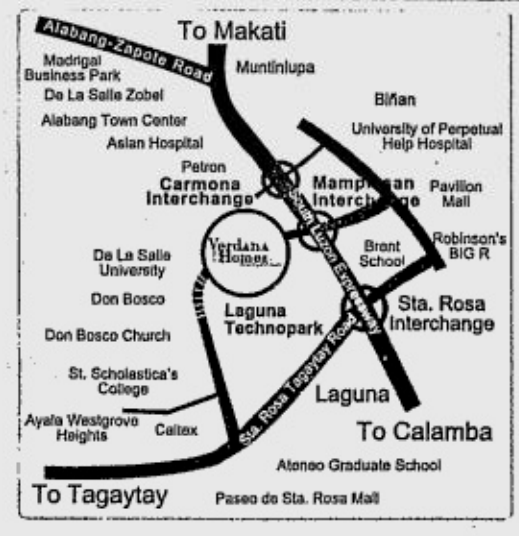

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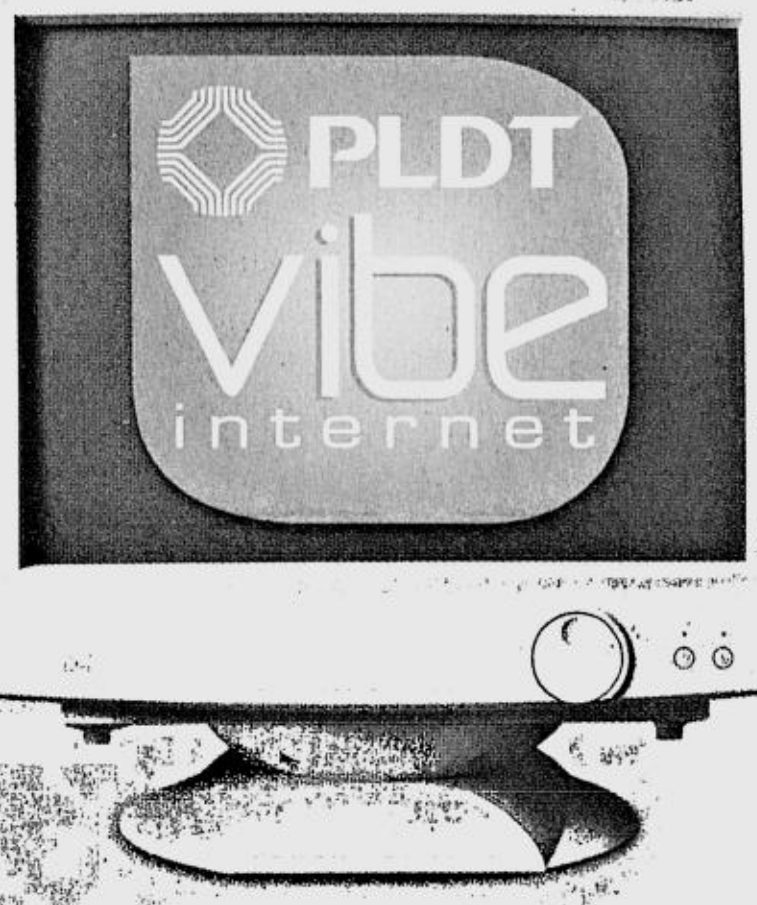

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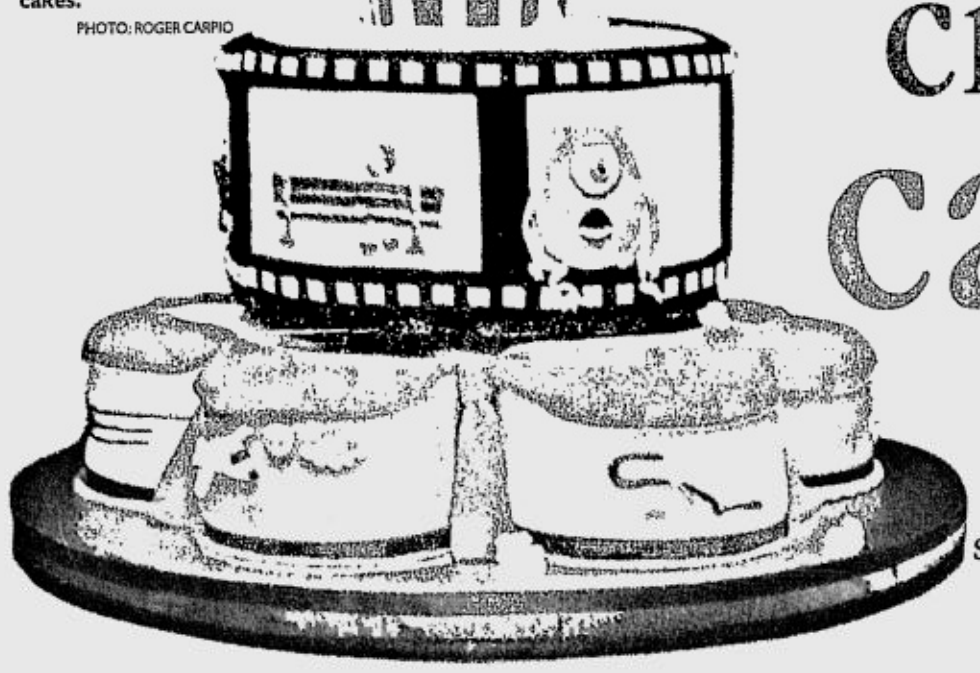
LOVE AND THE MOVIES. Ping Ayson and Jayvee Roque's Popcorn-and-Movie wedding cake details their shared passion for the silver screen. Their sponsors went home with tubs of "popcorn" cakes.

PHOTO: ROGER CARPIO

Kooky, crazy cakes



Something bold, something new, something playful, sometimes blue are Karla Lapira-Magbanua's creations

LOOKING THROUGH THE EYES OF LOVE. Eyeball cake for the altar date of optometrists Leslie Tan and R-jay Javier

By Cheche V. Moral

GET these: A wedding cake in the shape of eyeballs. A popcorn-and-movie theme cake for a film-buff bridal couple. An all-black "Addams Family"-theme wedding cake with a Gomez-and-Morticia bride-and-groom cake toppers...

Okay, so we made that last one up. But the first two are actual wedding cakes created by cake artist Karla Lapira-Magbanua. She's relatively new in the business, but the 34-year-old's Claycakes label is fast gaining popularity in a market that's constantly on the lookout for something fresh and unique.

Claycakes is sought out by clients who want to buck traditional satin-and-lace type of wedding cakes, the artist says.

"These are couples who want something extra-special and unique only to their wedding," she adds. That also means a great sense of humor on the part of bridal couples. Claycakes, after all, was so named for the Play-Doh-like playfulness involved in the making of her cakes.

Lapira-Magbanua's exquisite creations involve a lot of study and research. The Claycakes approach is very personal—that is, not a single cake comes from a catalog, so each product that comes out of the cake artist's kitchen is distinct.

"I ask what my clients want and present to them a sketch of my interpretation. Then we take it from there," she says.

Her first wedding project was the eyeball cake, which she made for an optometrist couple. It was a challenge, she says, to come up with a design that wouldn't gross out the couple's guests. "Imagine, eyeballs!" she laughs.

She began experimenting and eventually whipped up an edible cake topper of goofy eyeball heads—fondant icing, actually, with dark Valrhona chocolate cake inside.

The couple also asked her to make miniature eyeball cakes as giveaways. The edible cake topper, which she initially conceptualized as a spoof of the usual stiff ceramic bride-and-groom figures, has become her signature.

Eyeball affair

"I've always wanted to put up my own business," says Lapira-Magbanua, "but I never imagined it to be cakes."

A fine arts graduate, she was working her way up the corporate ladder when she chose to give it up after giving birth to her son, Enzo. It was on his first birthday in late 2001 when the young mom experimented on a cake that had "Under the Sea" as theme.

Soon after came a slew of kooky orders for various occasions: birthdays and debuts, anniversaries, baptisms, then last December, the eyeball affair.

Last January, she created a popcorn-and-movies theme cake for a couple who loved movies so much they wanted to share their passion with their guests.

The bottom layer had draped red velvet cinema curtains with symbols of their shared interests: reading (books), traveling (airplane), etc. The middle layer was made to look like a roll of film showing scenes from their favorite movies: Mike from "Monsters Inc.," the back of a man seated on a bench from "Forrest Gump," among others.

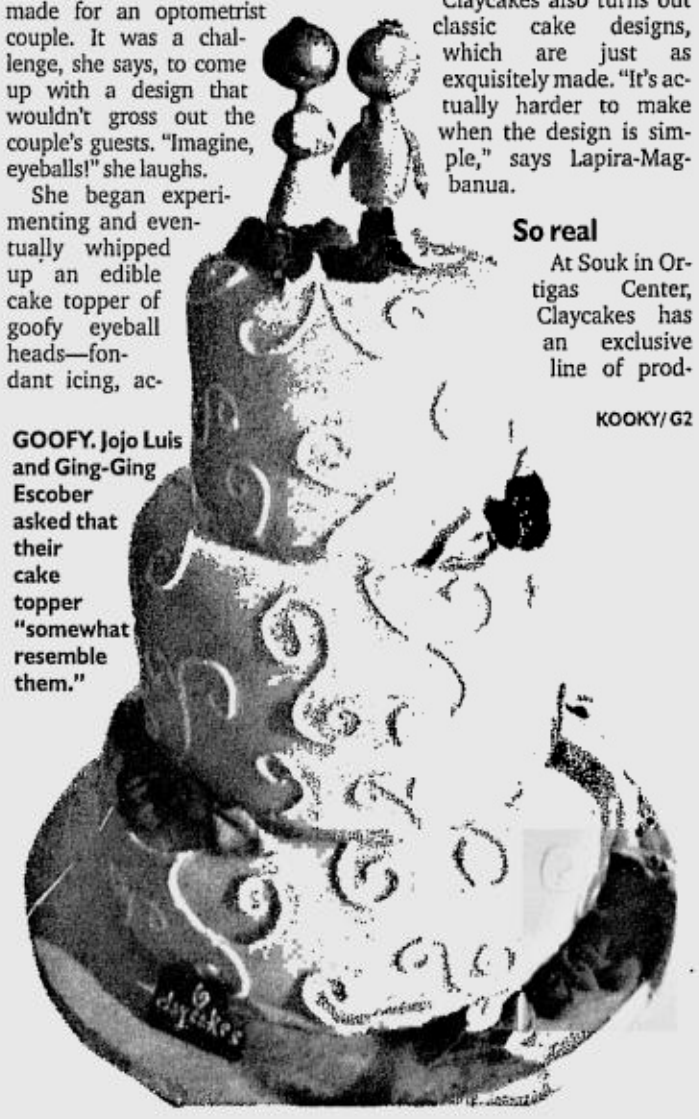
The top layer was shaped like a bucket overflowing with hand-molded fondant popcorns. Slumped on top are "The Bachelor" and "The Princess Bride" sugar toppers. The couple gave out popcorn-in-bucket cakes to the sponsors.

Claycakes also turns out classic cake designs, which are just as exquisitely made. "It's actually harder to make when the design is simple," says Lapira-Magbanua.

So real

At Souk in Ortigas Center, Claycakes has an exclusive line of prod-

KOOKY/ G2



GOOFY. Jojo Luis and Ging-Ging Escober asked that their cake topper "somewhat resemble them."

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- Firewalking by Sangyang of Alfonso, Cavite
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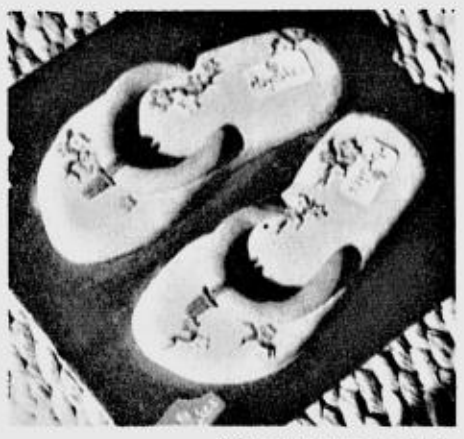


NO, you may not eat the sushi. And no, you may not try on the slippers. Two of Claycakes' exclusive cakes for Souk boutique

PHOTOS: CHITO VECINA

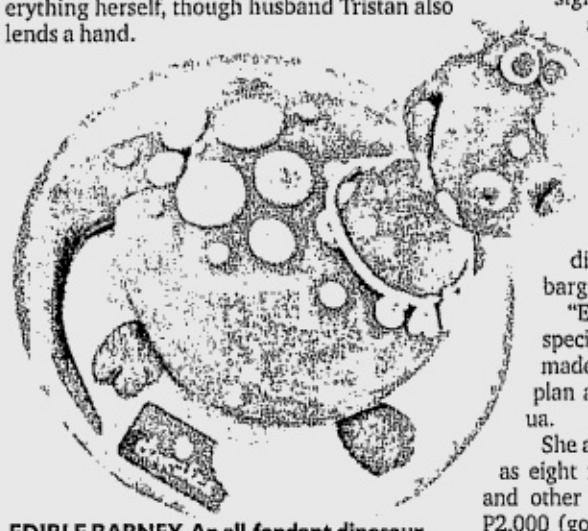
Kooky, crazy cakes

From page G1

ucts with themes that take off from the boutique's merchandise: "sushi" cakes, Oriental flip-flops, Indian jutties. They look so real that patrons often mistake them for the real deals.

"It's really hard because I have to knead the [fondant] icing until [I feel like] my arms are about to fall off," Lapira-Magbanua says with a laugh.

Working from her Antipolo home, she says it's especially hard because she does most everything herself, though husband Tristan also lends a hand.



EDIBLE BARNEY. An all-fondant dinosaur cake for a young boy's birthday

A full-time employee of San Miguel Corp.'s sales and marketing division, he helps her with purchasing, delivery and, yes, the kneading.

"He's my harshest critic," she smiles. If he says it's not good enough, she does it all over again.

"They are my guinea pigs," the artist says of her husband and son. "They have to taste everything, and I rely on their approval."

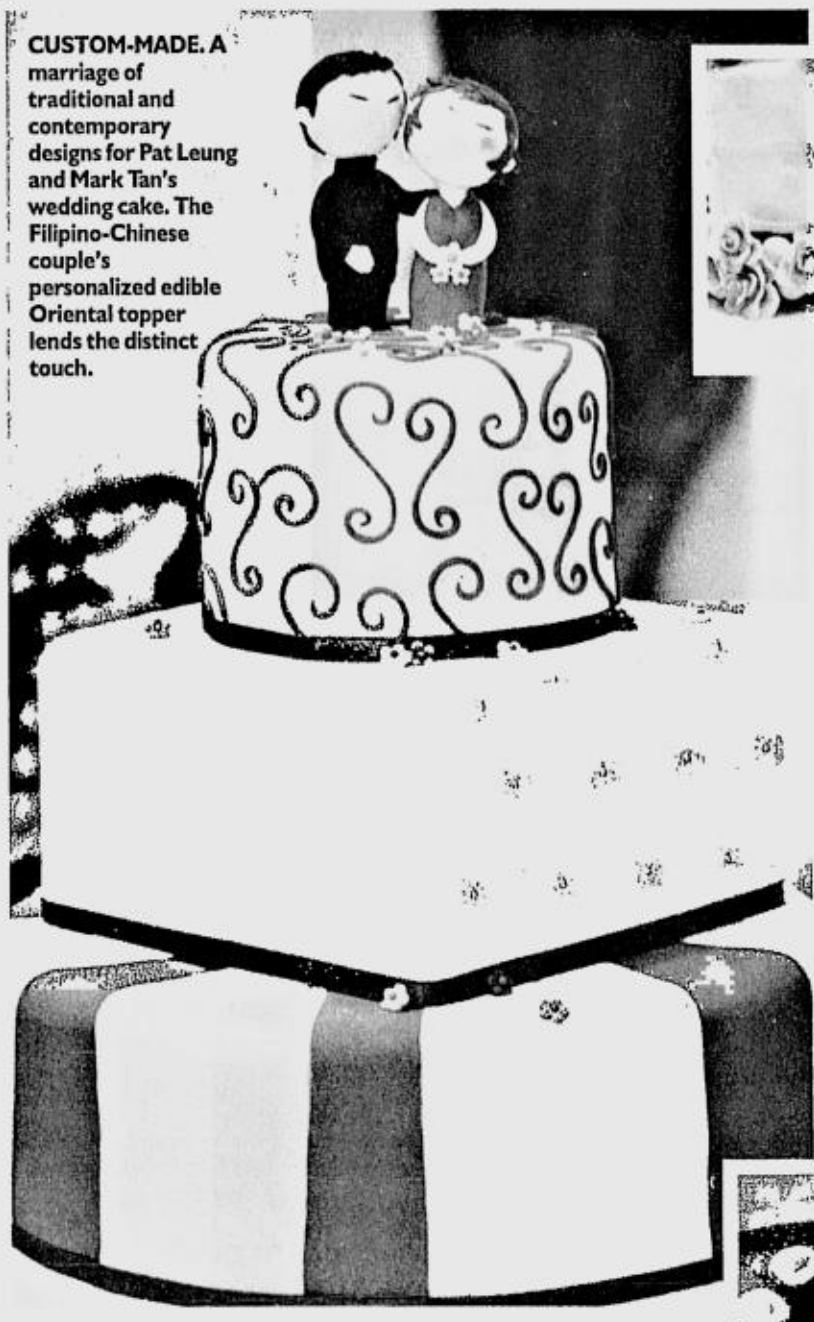
This process must be working well, since her cakes are admired not only for their designs but also for their taste. Her best-seller is the very moist chocolate cake that comes with a rich chocolate sauce. She also makes vanilla-almond and lemon-butter flavors.

Since her mother-in-law is diabetic, Lapira-Magbanua is now developing a sugar-free cake recipe.

Starting at P7,500 for weddings, Claycakes creations are a real bargain.

"Everything is custom-made to your specifications. But since I don't use ready-made molds, I need a good lead time to plan and research," says Lapira-Magbanua.

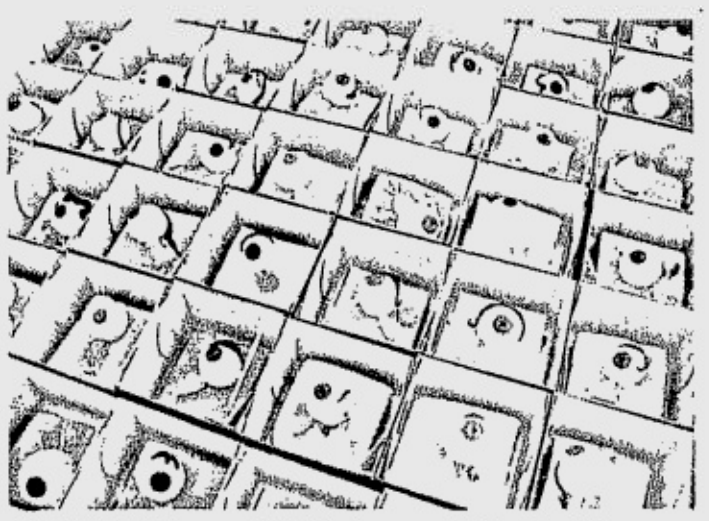
She accepts wedding cake orders as early as eight months before the event. Birthday and other special-occasion cakes, starting at P2,000 (good for 15-20 persons), must be ordered at least three weeks before delivery.



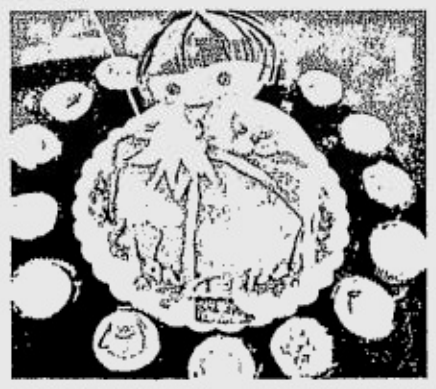
CUSTOM-MADE. A marriage of traditional and contemporary designs for Pat Leung and Mark Tan's wedding cake. The Filipino-Chinese couple's personalized edible Oriental topper lends the distinct touch.

CAKE artist Karla Lapira-Magbanua puts the final touches to a classic three-tier wedding centerpiece. Below is the finished product.

PHOTOS: JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN



ALL EYES. Miniature eyeball cake giveaways for the Tan-Javier wedding in December—the busiest month for Claycakes



WHAT A GIRL WANTS. A Dora the Explorer birthday cake with the Nickelodeon show's characters in cupcakes

So is an all-black Gomez-and-Morticia Addams wedding cake really unlikely? With Claycakes now around, surely not.

Call Claycakes at 0917-9246032 or 6461739

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone

SOUNDS POIFECT

ACROSS

1 Constructed ahead of time
8 Storage space
14 Sausage surrounder
20 Alpine singer
21 Major arteries
22 Juice-extracting tool
23 Way to prepare a cut of meat?
25 Designer Giorgio
26 Comics' Kett
27 Mork's planet
28 Sonorous?
30 King known as "the Bald"
35 "Pequod" captain
36 Petroleum magnate?
39 Realty unit
42 Groveled
47 Simile center
48 Tool with teeth
49 Some singers
51 "Don't have —, man!"
52 Foam —
54 "Hopalong Cassidy" star in heaven?
58 Mrs. Bush
59 Rope fiber
60 Bar order
61 Threat ender
62 — breve
63 Gung-ho about
65 Except
66 Yang's flip side
67 Statement about an abutting sports venue?
73 Eng. channel
76 Ticked off
77 "That's a shame"
78 Author Dinesen
82 Overseas train system
84 Life story
87 That partner?
88 Bea Arthur sitcom
89 Pass off a bill alteration as genuine?
92 Borden of infamy
93 Foot part
94 Advance
95 Play the kazoo
96 Hankering
97 Rest
100 The Roaring Twenties, e.g.
101 Resembling inflamed skin?
104 Skater's feat
106 Place to drop a letter
108 Lifting of a hamburger?
114 Dir.
115 Per person
119 Ring around a pupil
120 Toxic substances that are nowhere to be found?
125 Handgun
126 Mathematician Pascal
127 Outfits
128 Cling
129 Alphabetized, e.g.
130 Uncomfortable spot

DOWN

1 "Gomer —, U.S.M.C." ('60s sitcom)
2 Tooth anchor
3 Alter a "Life" sentence?
4 Endanger
5 "The Greatest"
6 Cozy retreat
7 Unit of work
8 Library cubicle
9 Peeks
10 Tolkien meanie
11 Do a slow boil
12 Peace of mind
13 Inventor Nikola
14 Necktie
15 Bacterium
16 Dr. Seuss' — -Am
17 Colorful Apple computer
18 Hawaii's bird
19 Football field
24 — sci (coll. major)
29 — apso
31 Bible book
32 Way off yonder
33 Use oars
34 "— Three Lives"
36 Alfalfa's pal
37 Commonplace
38 Afghanistan's capital
40 — about (roughly)
41 Bean curd
43 Florida county
44 Frostily
45 Martini's partner
46 Partner of 'twixt
49 Some errors
50 Dashboard abbr.
53 Brio-a- —
54 Symbol of redness
55 Prefix with present
56 Circular
57 "Laugh-In" comic Johnson
59 Cattle group
63 — Lumpur, Malaysia
64 Insurrectionist slave Turner
65 Leaning
68 Fail to include
69 Lavished love (on)
70 With 110 Down, former TV host
71 Final bio
72 Actress Cameron
73 Suit
74 "— notte" (Ital.)
75 Watson's partner in DNA research
79 Hostess snack cake
80 "Farewell!"
81 New Hampshire town
83 Arthur of tennis
84 Actor Stiller
85 Apropos of
86 Smell
88 Old printing machine
90 Actor Sal
91 Lady's title
92 Rock to sleep
95 That lad's
98 12th president
99 Breathe out
101 Stored, as coal
102 Couturier Cassini
103 Condition of equilibrium
105 An arm and a leg
107 Liqueur flavoring
108 One of the Three Bears
109 Moistureless
110 See 70 Down
111 Shopping bag
112 Missile storage structure
113 Old Russian ruler
116 Sweat source
117 Most draft-eligible
118 "Ahem" alternative
121 Form a lap
122 "Hogwash!"
123 Siouan tribe
124 "The Addams Family" cousin

answer on page I-3

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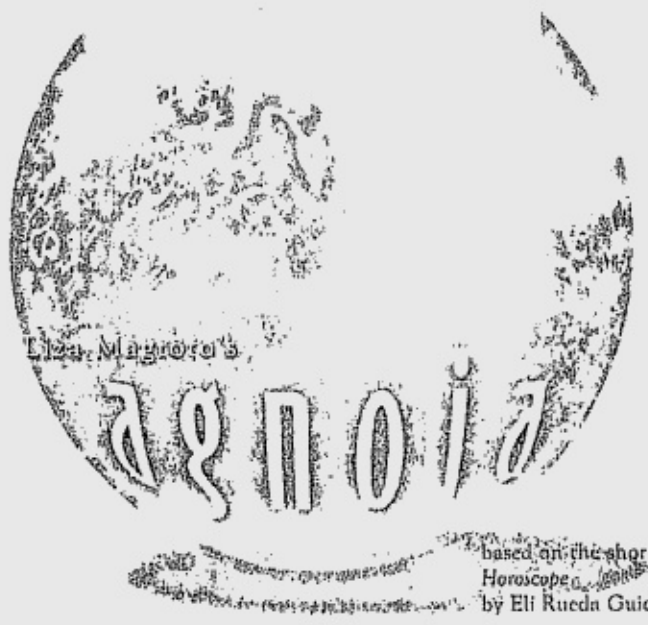

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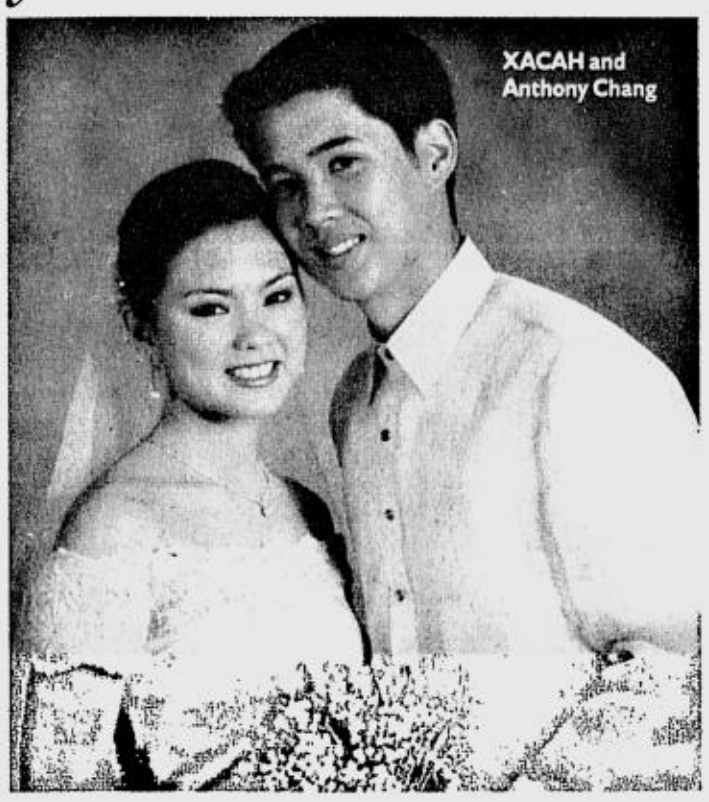
XACAH and Anthony Chang

GROOM'S PARENTS Winglip and Pinky

Jaime Picornell

XACAH Alessandra Kiener became the bride of **Anthony Chang** at elegant afternoon rites held in the Redemptorist Parish. She is the daughter of **Johnny Kiener** and **Julie Singson Kiener**; he is the son of **Winglip** and **Pinky Chang**, whose Pink Flora flower shop outdid itself on this occasion.

The wedding took one year to plan and the results were well-worth it. The church aisle seemed to be filled with snow. Actually there were hundreds of fresh white poinsettias, especially flown from Baguio, along with masses of calla lilies and white orchids.

Msgr. **Adelito Abella** officiated at the nuptial rites. Sponsors were led by a couple very dear to both families—**Florentino Atillo III** and **Irma Lim Atillo**. They came from California for the wedding, with children **Nico** and **Isa**, who sang beautifully during the ceremony.

Other sponsors were **Ricarido King, Earl Kokseng, Aljoe Alfonso, Rodolfo Singson** proxied by **Alex Arcilla, Carl Singson, Oscar Chua, Wington Chang, Cesar Mozar Jr., Mario Medina, Mesdames Anna Wright, Mona Li, Kathie Kiener Javellana, Tina Fonacier, Ma. Antonia Go, Ma. Regina Aboitiz, Mila Cabiluna**, Dr. **Lydia Chang** and **Ma. Linda Knobbe.**

Wedding entourage

Xacah had **Sarita Pimentel** as matron of honor and **Zia Karina Wiener** as maid of honor, while Anthony, an only son, had **Richard Joseph Li** as best man.

Bridesmaids **Layla Wiener, Danika Javellana, Inez Reformina, Vanessa Deen** and **Brooke Iskra** were escorted by groomsmen **Paul John Kiener, Liland Mañacap, Matthew Morrell, August Molina** and **Alexander Wright.**

Flower girls were **Alyssa Mozar, Alexa Muriel** and **Elena Pelaez**; and the pages were **Tristan Pimentel**, rings; **Nicollo Selma**, coins; and **Charles Pasculado**, Bible.

Secondary sponsors were **Eduardo Rama Jr.** and **Georgia Chiongbian**, candle; **Amador Que Jr.** and **Kloodie del Rosario**, veil; and **Matthew Chang** and **Pamela Li**, cord.

Participating in the nuptial Mass were **June Rabin**, lector; **Alison Doyungan** and **Jon Kiener**, scripture readers; **Christopher Wright**, responsorial psalms; and **Russel Samson** who led the prayers of the faithful.

In the offertory procession were **Jon** and **Annie Rettuya** with the flowers; **Brian Monteclaro** and **Pretzel Go**, candles; **Ira Kiener** and **Selina Selma**, fruits; **Derrick Yap** and **Leslie Ann Reyes**, the chalice and ciborium. The Carmel Voices of Praise sang during the Mass.

The reception was held at the Cebu Grand Convention Center, owned in part by the Chang family. Cocktails were served at the foyer and, at a given hour, the doors of the main hall were thrown open.

Sunset

Swaths of silk in sunset colors—orange, ochre, rust, etc.—crisscrossed the ceiling from which were hung hundreds of butterflies made of tulle in the theme colors. Tables were set with high vases overflowing with yellow flowers.

Gourmet food from various restaurants owned by the Chang family was laid out in various stations. Top favorites were Japanese specialties from Sen Ryu, Majestic's incomparable Peking duck, an assortment of Chinese vegetables, various cheeses; and pastries from the Beehive.

The wedding cake, a monumental masterpiece by **Marissa Rodriguez Unchuan**, towered over everyone. There was more than enough for every guest to have a slice.

Favors consisted of crystal chopsticks from China. **Philip Rodriguez** collected congratulations for the bridal gown. So did **Teresing Mendezona**, architect **Tessie Javier** and **Jaime Chua** for masterminding the decor at the church and reception.

There was dancing till the break of dawn to the music of the Pyramid Band, which usually plays at Juke Box, a popular place for the young in the Grand Convention complex.

Xacah and Anthony will make their home in Cebu where they will help their parents in their numerous business enterprises.

BRIDE'S PARENTS Johnny and Julie Kiener

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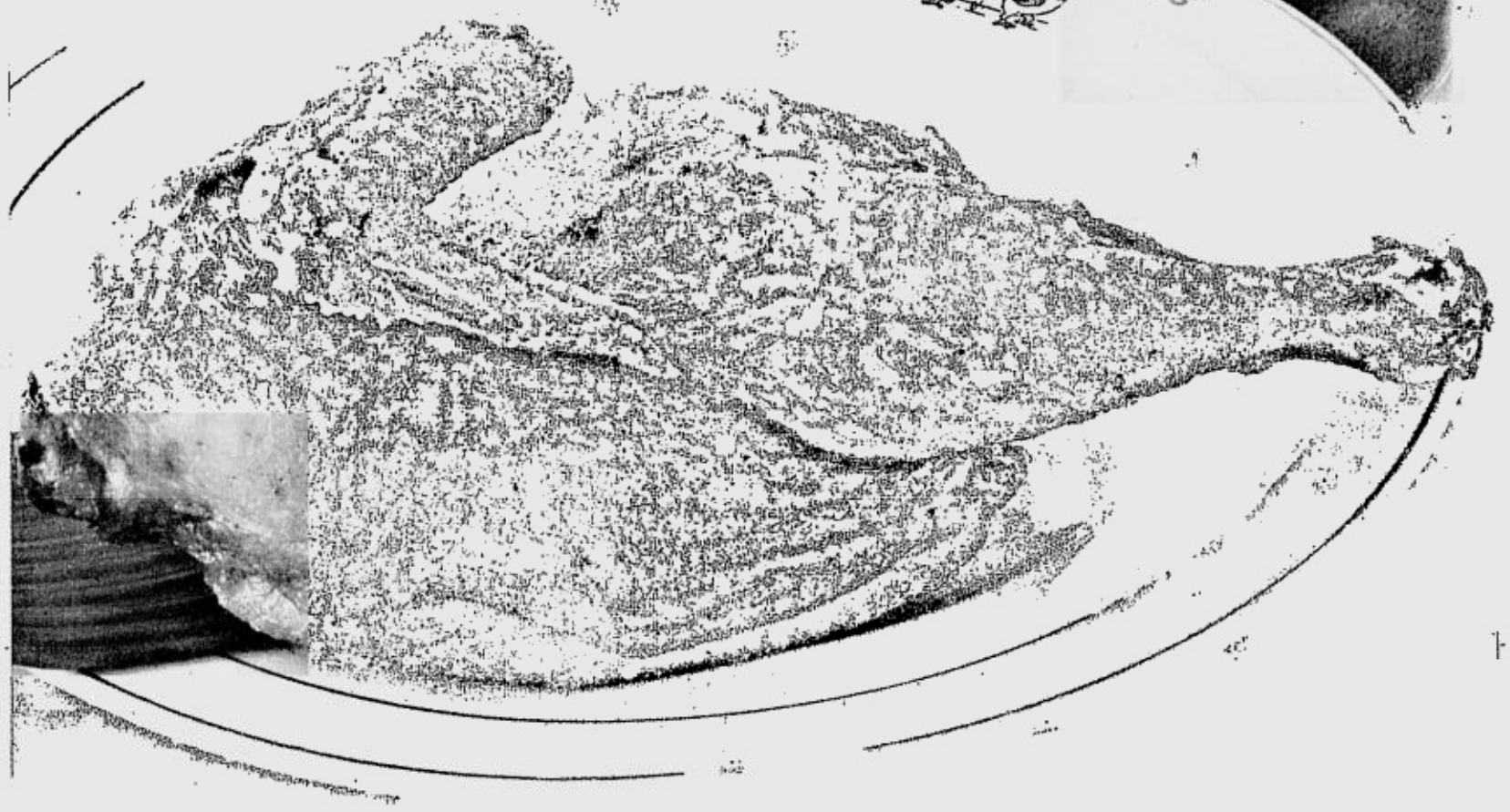

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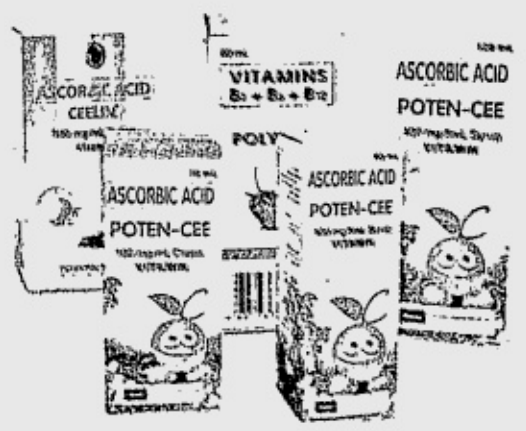

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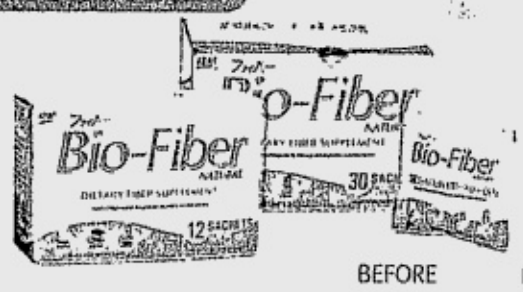

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

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METALLIC rust hair by Olaf & Bert, makeup by Patrick Rosas, fashion by Rajo Laurel

URBAN Metallics in electric gold. Hair by Olaf & Bert, makeup by Patrick Rosas, fashion by Rajo Laurel

METALLIC rust hair by Olaf & Bert

HAIR by second runner-up Nelson Cruz of Essensuals by Toni & Guy, makeup by L'Oreal Paris

Letting my hair down on Valentine's

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

How do you spark passion on a predictable, boring occasion? Get a shocking hairdo, put on an aphrodisiac scent, and ask him for a new car!

AFTER BEING married for almost 10 years, Valentine's Day for me is not as eventful as it used to be. INQUIRER resident illustrator **Steph Bravo** told me she and her husband would just be sleeping on Cupid's special day. I figured she must be married as long as I have because yesterday, my husband, **Dennis**, just played golf, and dinner was also at the Manila Golf Club.

An annual tradition, the Golden Tee tournament is always held on Feb 14. I think it's a plot for the male members to spend less on Valentine's Day. Avoiding all the pricey dinners and concerts, everything is inclusive in the tournament package with entertainment until midnight (though the golfers immediately leave after the raffle is done).

In an attempt to recreate that "just married" spark, I had my hair cut and colored in Salon de Manila with precision stylist **Pin Antonio.** This much-sought-after, London-trained (Vidal and Toni & Guy) hairstylist has a waiting list for weeks, but I had be-

LETTING/ H2

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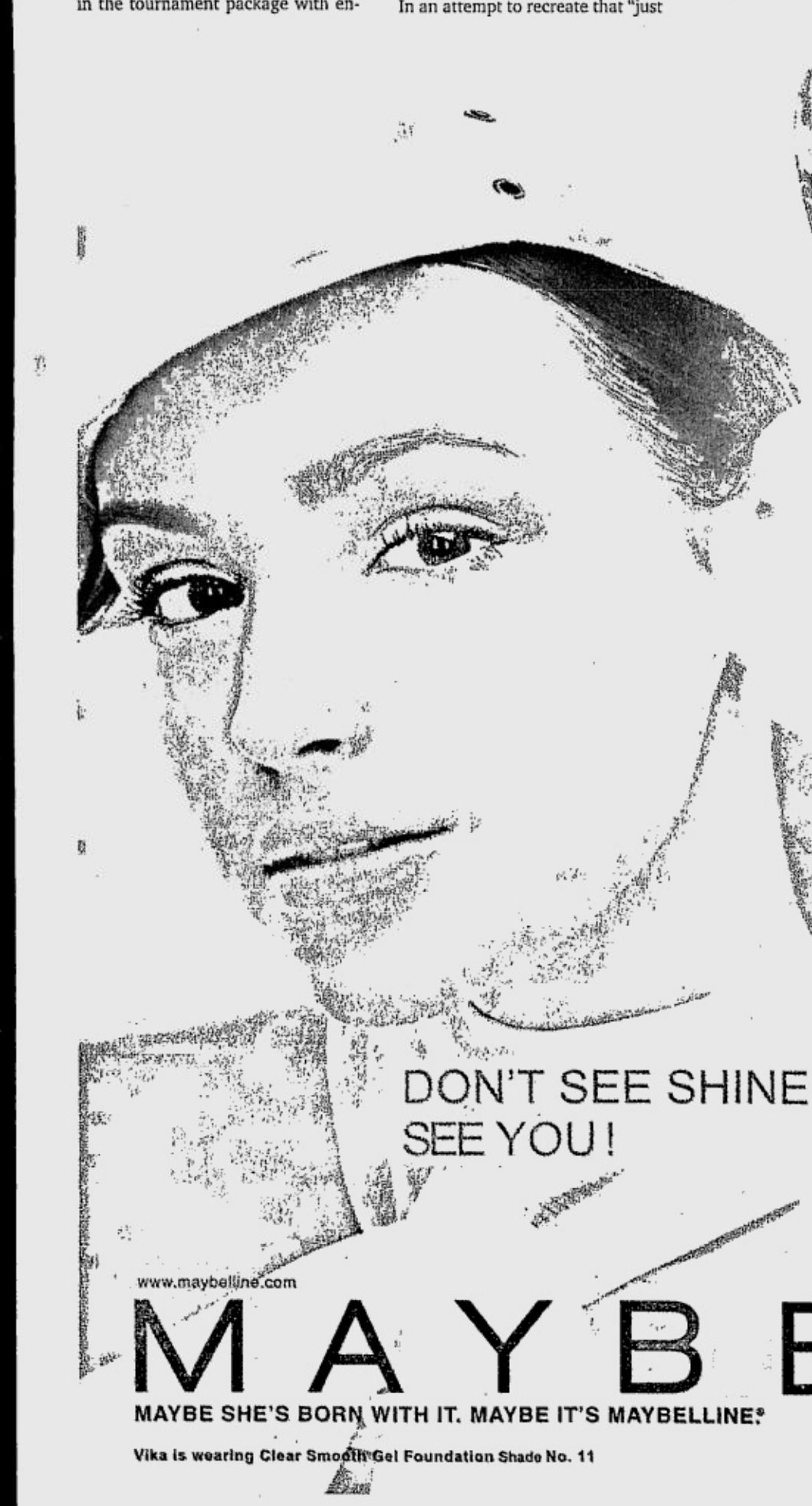

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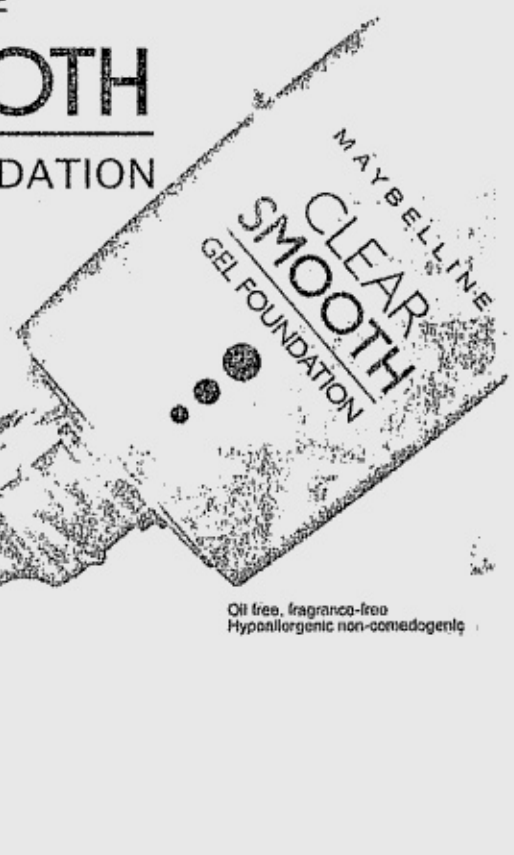

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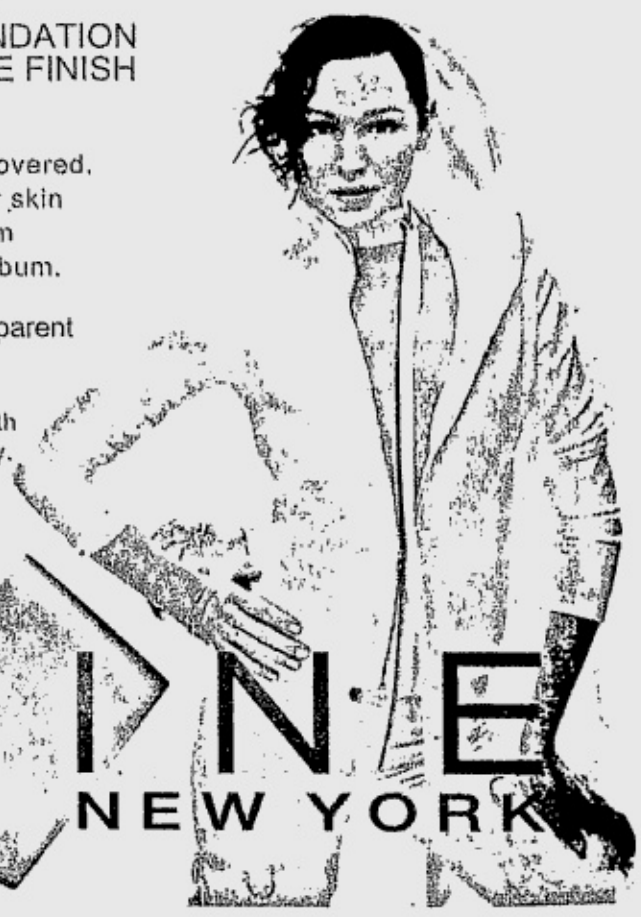

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Vika is wearing Clear Smooth Gel Foundation Shade No. 11

SALON de Manila's unbeatable team. Sonny Mangundayao and Pin Antonio

STYLISH friends. Designer Justin Mendoza and hairstylist Jessie Mendez

EMPHASIS Salon's talents, Victor Ortega and last year's grand winner Danny Katalbas

GORGEOUS couple Irene and Randy Francisco

GEOFF Simpson of Haute Coiffure Francaise and Kerwyn Cuevas

URBAN Metallics in Magnetic Bronze. Hair by Olaf & Bert

WINNING hair salon owners Linda Francisco and daughter Peachy Zulueta of Piandre Salon

Letting my hair down on Valentine's

FASHION by Rajo Laurel, hair and makeup by L'Oreal

From page H1

friended her when we were both judges at the Wella Hair Show last year. So she just found a small opening in her busy schedule shuttling from one branch to another. Her husband, **Sonny Mangundayao** (they have the most unusual, romantic love story), helps her manage the six Salon branches.

With pheromones still floating in the air, our topic for today should be passion. And what greater passion can any woman have than a passion for... great hair?

Angular, edgy and blunt cuts with bright highlights of red and orange are the 2004 signature hair trends, according to the hairstylists who competed at the recent L'Oreal Colour Trophy Awards. All the 14 finalists from the top salons were parading their best that day, which was sort of the Olympics of hairstyling.

It was just so amazing to see the talented stylists come up with original works that look like they were done in London, Paris, New York.

Speaking of which, why does every high-end fashion brand seem to have those three cities emblazoned on their packaging?

I mean, why not include Manila?

Hairstyling is one area the Philippines is so proud to excel at, with the likes of **Ricky Reyes**, **Jessie Mendez**, etc., etc. And let me apologize in advance to all the great stylists whose names I included in the "etc., etc." portion only. (Why do I even start a list?)

One thing we are good at is looking good. So I'm looking forward to buying a bottle of Kerastase with the cities London, Paris, Manila on the bottom!

Amazing looks

It's amazing that we can all continue to look great despite our worries about the plunging peso. The foreign judges were celebrity hairdressers **Olaf Van Dan Wildenberg** and **Bert de Zeeuw** from Olaf & Bert of Holland. Both looked not only amazed at the exceptional hairstyles but also at how much their euros could buy.

Economics aside (after all, it is Valentine's weekend), both judges were quite impressed and had a difficult time judging. Assisting the Dutch duo at their judging chores were fashion stylist **Jenni Epperson**, Mega magazine editor **Vicky Tensuan** and makeup maven **Patrick Rosas**.

Inq7.net, PDI and GMA Network's high-flying Internet affiliate, linked up with L'Oreal for an Internet choice award. **Paolo Prieto**, who was definitely from the minority gender that evening, awarded **Cris Estalilla** of Prive II by Geoff Simpson as Inq7.net Reader's Choice Award. Cris also won the L'Oreal Paris Best Makeup Award, chosen by beauty maverick Patrick Rosas. Although Cris was not the eventual big winner, he was a crowd favorite that evening.

Bagging this year's grand prize was **Francis Quinones** of Piandre Salon-Libis, who impressed the judges with his stylish, sophisticated, original, but more important, wearable hairstyle creation. I still need to know if that hairstyle will work with my curly hair. In the meantime, wigs are my preferred cover-up. I mean, who else would wear a wig to a hair show?

If my hair doesn't do the trick to ignite some passion, maybe smelling good will create some sparks. I recently discovered the new scent of Giorgio Armani. Called Night, the fragrance has one for men and another for women.

At its launch in Nuvo, the party turned wild as the Romeos were asked to search for their Juliets. Now, if those introductions led to anything, they all had the scent to thank for.

Car crazy

Now, if looking and smelling good do not even create a scene, straight-up frankness will. As in, "Honey, can you buy me a car for Valentine's?"

That's the sort of statement that should inspire some passion! After all, if you are going to ask for something which will definitely get a NO answer anyway, might as well ask for the moon and see what he offers in exchange!

The perfect place to ask for a new car was at C! car magazine's second anniversary at the NBC Tent last week. As part of the drama, C!'s owners **Kevin Limjoco**, **Paolo Martel**, **Karl Cunanan** and the rest of the C! gang got the different car dealers to display their top models at the party.

On the floor were two Formula 1 race cars, a Rolls, a Ferrari, various BMWs, Mercs, Volvos—hey, it seemed there was enough expensive metal on the floor to capitalize a savings bank. As I said above, set economics aside, after all it is Valentine's weekend.

They even raffled off a car but unfortunately not one of the higher-end ones. So if you missed the party, sorry *na lang*! Just kidding! The raffle was for a Tag Heuer watch, still the perfect wrist accessory to drive around town in.

In contrast to the L'Oreal event, this was one party where there were more straight men around. I guess these types of events are not announced to the wives, who might just get the wrong ideas that night.

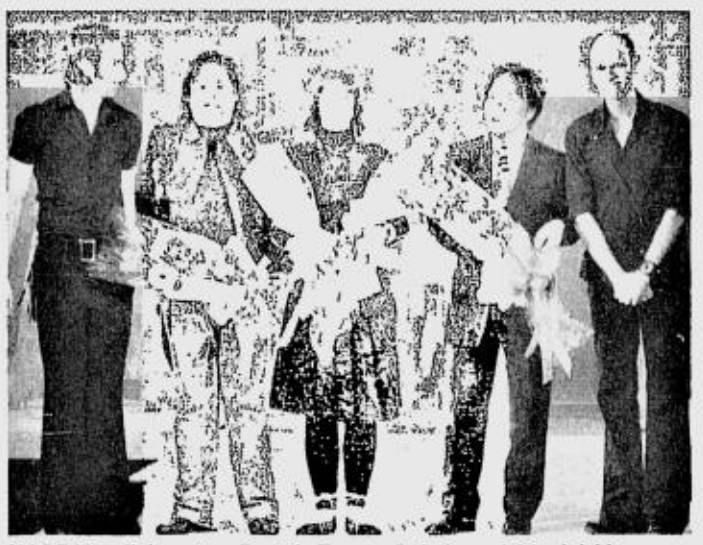
It was quite difficult to photograph personalities since most of the guests didn't care less about their looks—a total contrast to the L'Oreal show where every single male had fashionable clothes and great hairstyles.

It was a perfect night to have makeovers for men who have the money to buy those expensive cars. Just so they won't fall fashion-victim to the Yin-Yang Law of Automotive Propulsion, "the more good-looking the car, the more not-so-good-looking the driver."

There is stiff competition in the SUV department though. BMW, Volvo and Volkswagen had their units at the NBC Tent that evening, and it was great to compare their features. If I were to get one, I will have to start saving by having less outfits made. But I realize my true priorities so the car will just have to wait.

Well, all that may not sound as passionate as a night with **Michael Bublé**, but in the end it's what's inside that counts, so it's a matter of maximizing that love by doing some creative measures. If my wardrobe and wigs show my character, then you all know how creative I can be. One just has to take the plunge!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph


L'OREAL collaborators Bert de Zeeuw, Rajo Laurel, Moniek Van Heiwegen, Patrick Rosas and Olaf Van Dan Wildenberg

HAIR and makeup by Cris Estalilla of Prive Salon II, winner of the L'Oreal Best Makeup Award

XENG Zulueta of Shu Uemura

INQ7.NET president Paolo Prieto awards the Reader's Choice plaque to Cris Estalilla of Prive II by Geoff Simpson.

L'OREAL'S moving force Celine Gabriel, managing director Paul Henri Duillet and Leica Carpo

HOLLAND'S finest hair gurus. Olaf Van Dan Wildenberg and Bert de Zeeuw

L'OREAL Colour Trophy winner Francis Quinones of Piandre Salon

THE 15 finalists of the 2004 L'Oreal Colour Trophy Awards

GP Reyes, Ipe Cruz and L'Oreal's Angelique Villaraza

ALL in the family. Mommy Amalia flanked by Mai-mai and Chuck Montecillo

DISTINGUISHED judges. Mega Magazine editor Vicky Tensuan, makeup maven Patrick Rosas and fabulous stylist Jenni Epperson

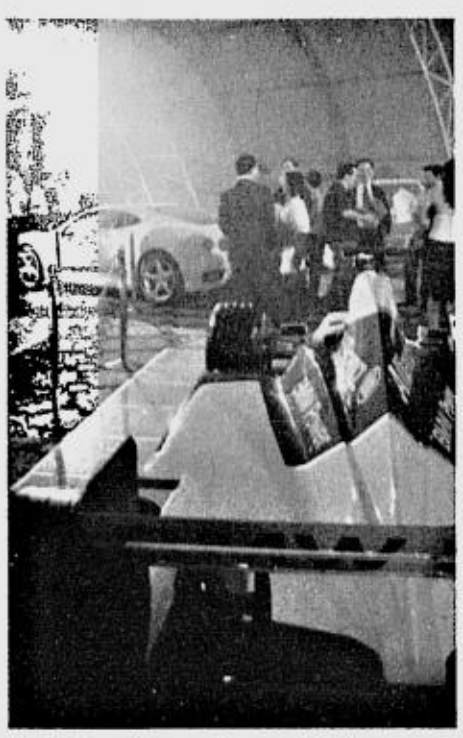
TENG Roma with the Emphasis Salon team

RESTAURANT 12's smooth operator Elbert Cuenca

MEN and cars at the C! Magazine event. Joby Tanseco, Rolf Wiltschek and Steven Tagle

CAR lovers all. Albert Martinez, Paolo Martel, Cristina Villanueva, Kevin Limjoco and racing champion Angelo Barretto

INSIDE the new Volkswagen Touareg. Leah Puyat, Sea Princess and Anton Barretto


MONEY can buy... a Formula 1 racing car, as seen at the second anniversary bash of C! Magazine.

HONG Kong denizens go ape over good buys on the eve of the Year of the Monkey.

EMBROIDERED and beaded bags go for as low as HK$30.

Where best to find irresistible Oriental stuff than in that great shopping mecca also known as Hong Kong?

FUNKY scarves and accessories fill this boutique, one among many on Nathan Road in Tsim Sha Tsui.

A shopper's Shangri-la

From page H4

wane there. But try looking into the HMV, the biggest music store, and magazine stalls along side streets. Chances are you'll find something worth bringing home to your obsessed friends.

Your last chance for shopping would be, of course, at Chek Lap Kok. Before leaving for Manila, you can browse through the many gift shops for more *pasalubong*. Just make sure you don't get lost in the frenzy of going from end to end (it's that cavernous), or you'll end up missing your flight.

On the way to the airport, the driver caught sight of the plastic bags filled with goodies from our last-minute shopping at Nathan. He smiled and said, "Thank you for shopping in Hong Kong. You're really helping our economy!"

Lucky Hong Kong, lucky us.

Cathay Pacific flies five times daily from Manila to Hong Kong and once daily from Cebu. For more information on its Spring packages, call 7570888 or visit www.cathaypacific.com. Also visit www.discoverhongkong.com.

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Spring in Paris
RAFFLE PROMO

"There are plenty of green spaces to escape traffic. A picnic in Bois de Boulogne and laterwander down to the 'Left Bank' where you can stroll through the Luxembourg Gardens. There, old men are contemplating on the statues, and, by the pond are children eagerly awaiting for the arrival of a lady with a barrow load of brightly colored sail boats. By the River Seine, watch a barge flowing downstream and a sailing boat with furled sails, with sun-burnt skipper at the tiller, pottering to the north channel..."

"The skies were at their bluest and it was the kind of day that was made for flying kites."

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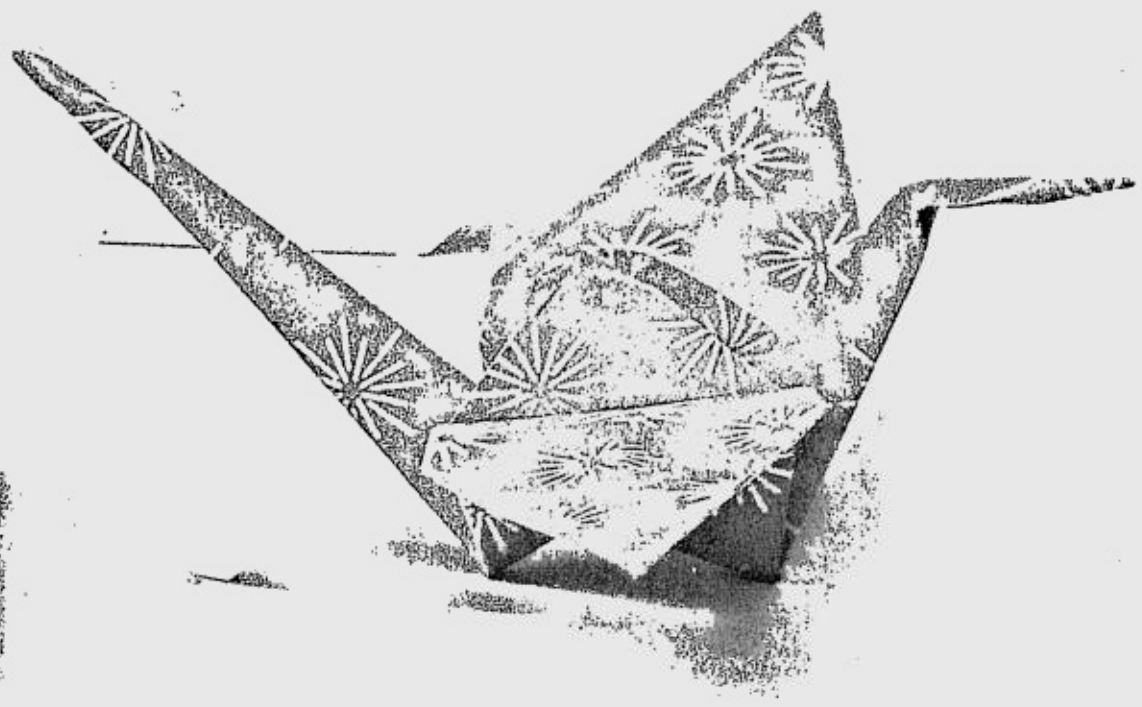

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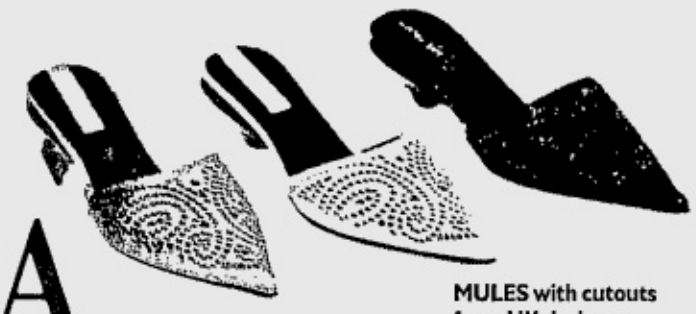
CHINESE CHIC. These silk cheongsams [illegible] yours at HK$30 (P630) or even less. Just know how to haggle at the Ladies' Night Market.


MULES with cutouts from HK designer Vivienne Tam

A shopper's hangri-la

Text and photos by Allison W. Lopez

ANYTHING Asian seems to be the rage nowadays—cheongsams, obis, pashminas, even things remotely related to F4. And where best to find them than in the great shopping mecca also known as Hong Kong?

The shop-till-you-really-drop culture is hard to resist in Hong Kong. Everywhere you look, there's always a shop that seems to be knocking down your wall of resistance. So the best advice is to hold on to your horses, but not that tight as to prevent you from enjoying the market's offerings.

You can start chanting Fendi, Gucci, Burberry upon arrival at the Chek Lap Kok airport, where dozens of luxury shops are housed in the huge space. Then shout Shanghai Tang, and find some of the most exquisite cheongsams, accessories and home furnishings there.

Redefining the meaning of shopping, HK's impressive SkyMart certainly competes with the malls with its numerous stores, as if urging you to immediately surrender all your pocket money. Resist the itch to burn your wallet; the journey hasn't even begun yet.

Most stores are closed on Chinese New Year's Day (most consider it bad luck to open shop), but a handful do open, and—well, you have the succeeding days to check out the rest of the shops.

As our group of journalists from all over the world were booked at the Regal Kowloon Hotel in Tsim Sha Tsui, we enjoyed a strategic vantage point. The area was a popular shopping destination. Here you can easily find your way to Nathan Road and its stretch of maddeningly diverse stores, from fashion and jewelry to electronics and antiques.

Bossini and Giordano are among the better-known boutiques, with reasonably priced finds. For glossies and eye shadows on sale at HK$5-HK$10 (P35-P70), try the Red Earth boutique.

Comfy cashmere blouses and sweaters in lemon yellow and rosy pink, sold on makeshift stalls along Nathan, are sure to catch your eye. Prices can be brought down to HK$70 (P490) from HK$89.

You can also pass by Peninsula Hotel and take a peek at the bigger Shanghai Tang boutique, where you can avail of Chinese haute couture through the store's Imperial Tailors. Also check out beloved HK designer Vivienne Tam's eclectic East meets West fashion at the Festival Walk in Kowloon Tong.

Haggler's heaven

At the night markets, you're certain to go crazy over the great buys—especially if you love haggling. In nearby Mong Kok, the Ladies' Market bursts with funky bags, belts and clothes, while Temple Street Market, the men's answer to the Ladies' Market, has mostly shirts, ties and watches. Both remain open till way past midnight, with people crowding their way along the stalls.

Cheongsams in fine Chinese silk are available at HK$90 (P630) above. Choose from rows upon rows of cheongsams with elaborate designs; inspired blouses or dresses, with sleeves, slits and elaborate stitching.

Language can be a real barrier in these markets, but when money talks, everyone listens. So haggle as much as you can, even when the sellers already seem to be saying in Cantonese: "Is she crazy? HK$50 for a cheongsam?!?" Who knows, they just might give in.

Better yet, the seller just might talk in Filipino, like this very friendly Pinay saleslady we met. Naturally, she gave good discounts on two pretty knitted blouses—a long-sleeved white peek-a-boo at HK$65 (P455), and HK$60 (P420) for a moss-green sleeveless number (with shawl-like draping) that can be worn two ways.

Good-quality pashminas go from HK$40-HK$60 (P280-P420). Stylish jackets, scarves, stockings and gloves are selling like hotcakes these days in the chilly Hong Kong weather. A good buy for the windy season is the fuchsia jacket with removable faux fur, at only HK$90 (P630).

Oriental design bags with chopstick handles, reminiscent of Josie Natori designs, can be had for HK$30-HK$50 (P210-P350), with the more intricate and beaded ones sporting higher prices. Canvas bags with stylized designs of Audrey Hepburn and Marilyn Monroe are available at only HK$40 (P280).

Oh, and don't expect too much F4 stuff in Hong Kong, as the group's popularity is on the

A SHOPPER'S/ H3

NEW! AJINOMOTO Sabaw
BEEF NILAGA
PORK SINIGANG sa MAYNILAGAB
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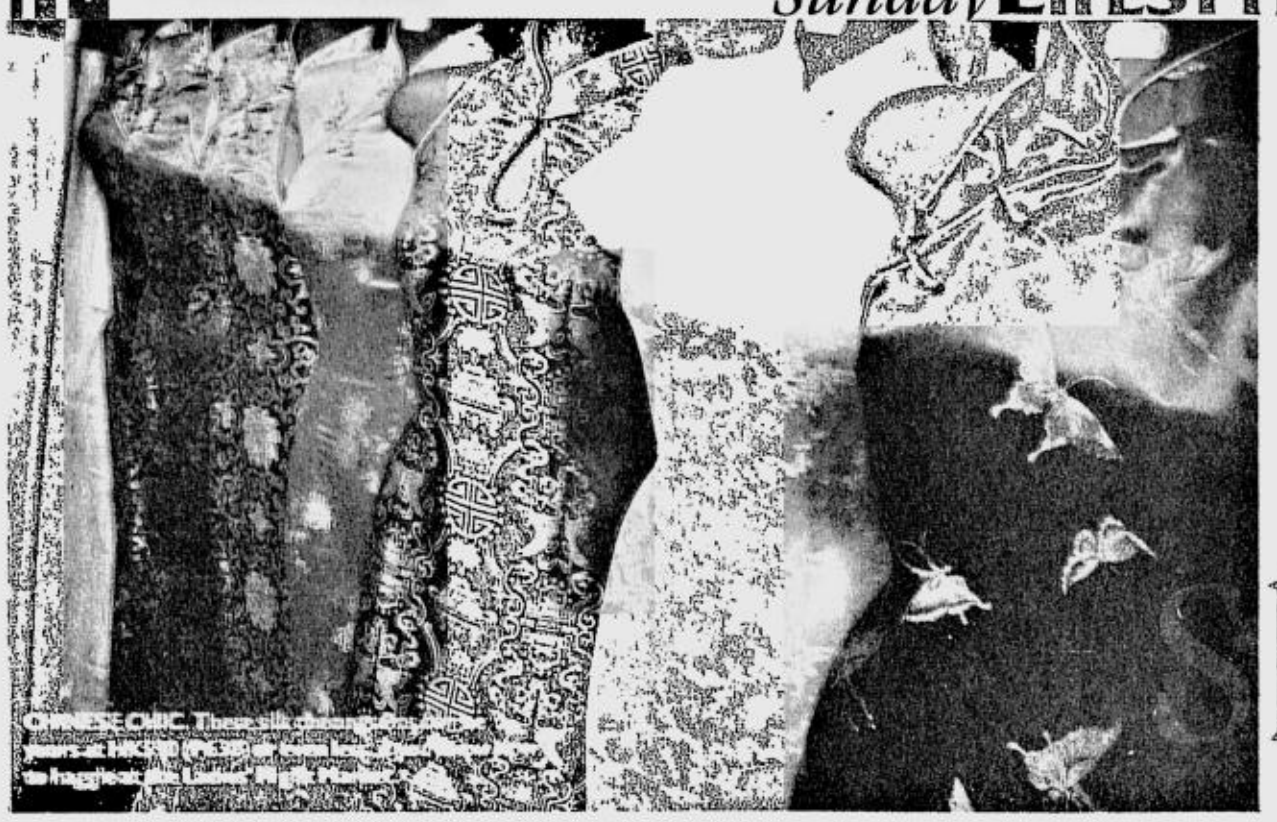

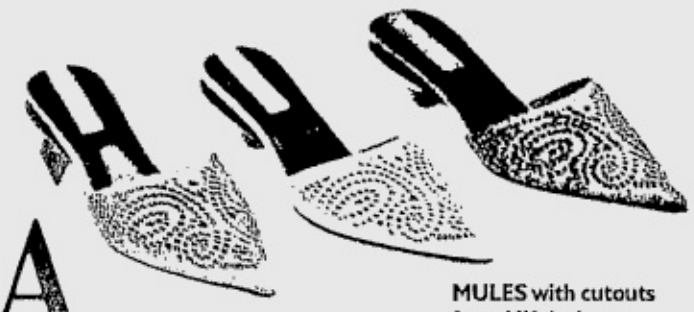

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

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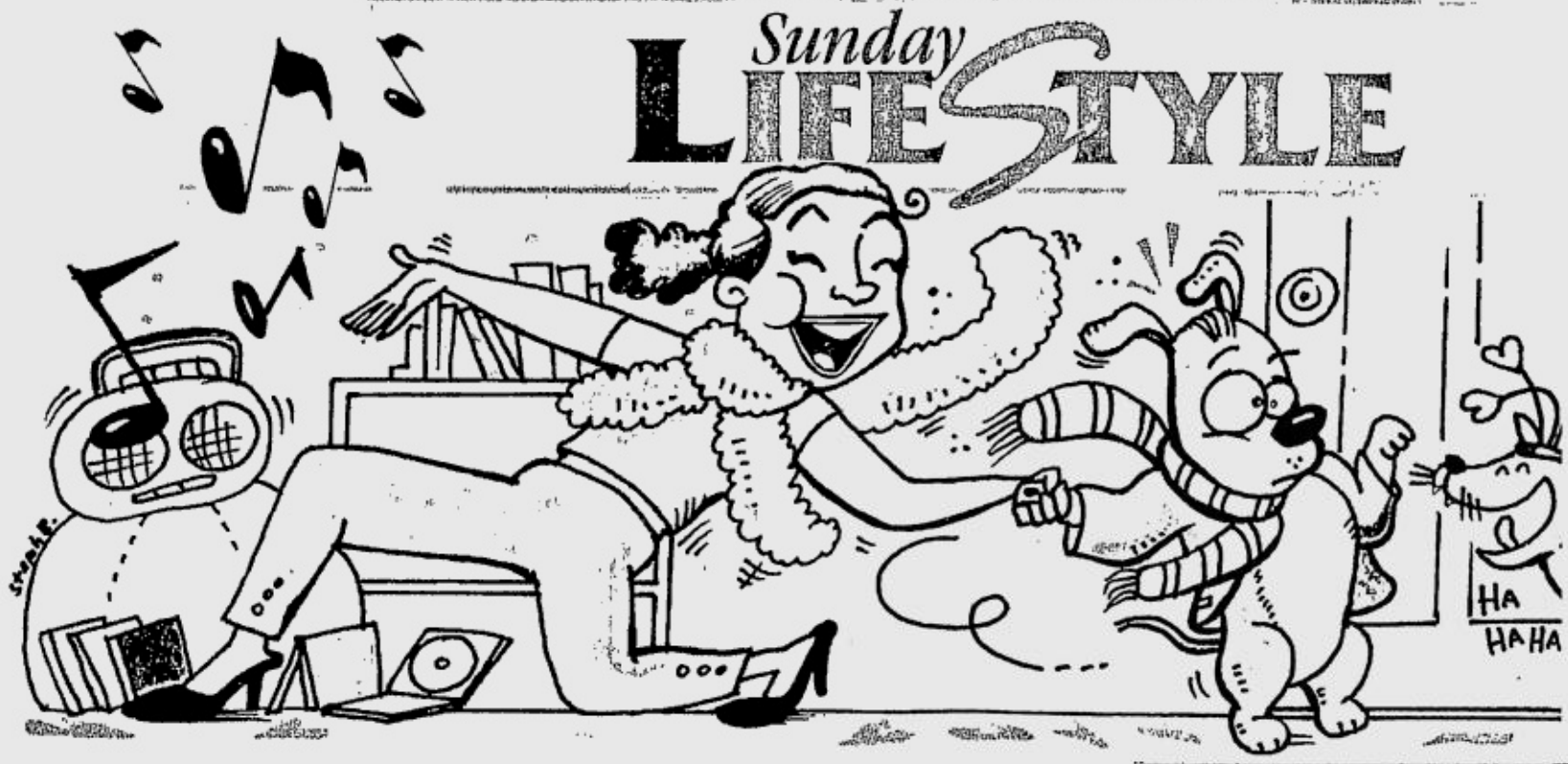


How do I love me? Let anti-Valentine's Day me count the ways...

The greatest love of all: I

By Pam Pastor

EVERYONE'S too focused on couples. Maybe even you.

Year after year, you scamper around the metro, trying to cre ate the perfect Valentine's Day surprise for your loved one. You mix tapes and CDs, make scrapbooks, write poetry, prepare surprises, buy flowers and balloons, explore the malls for the perfect gift, and set up the perfect date.

And while that may be enough to make your significant other happy, what about you?

After a year of pushing yourself hard, working, facing pressures, fulfilling responsibilities, beating deadlines, making other people happy, don't you think you deserve a little break?

This Valentine's weekend, give yourself a dose of self-love. There must be 50 ways to pamper and de-stress yourself. It doesn't matter if you're attached or dateless. We could all use a little loving—even if it comes from ourselves. So here goes:

1. Indulge yourself with a spa treatment. A facial, a foot scrub or maybe a long massage. If your budget is tight, buy home treatments from your favorite beauty store and use your own hands to pamper yourself.

2. Rent your favorite movies and watch them one after the other.

3. Set aside the whole morning or afternoon, curl up on your couch or bed and reread your favorite book.

4. Try something you've always wanted to try but never had the guts to. Join a mountaineering group, try scuba diving, learn how to rollerblade.

5. Buy a pint of ice cream, chocolate syrup, nuts, marshmallows, rice krispies, and make yourself a killer sundae.

6. Call an old friend and catch up.

7. Go for a long walk—in a safe area, of course.

8. Buy new headphones. You'll learn to appreciate your choice of music even more when listening to them through really good headphones. Last year, I treated myself on Valentine's Day by trying on Sennheiser headphones. I'm still absolutely in love with them.

9. Read old letters—pleasant ones.

10. Visit a place you've always wanted to go to.

11. Create the scrapbook of your life. Include your favorite photographs, mementos, letters and notes. Make funny captions.

12. Read your old journal entries, laugh at your silliness and marvel at how much you've matured.

13. Dance. If you're shy, lock yourself up in your room and let loose.

14. Have a great night out—whether alone or with friends. But please don't get drunk alone.

15. Visit favorite places when you were growing up.

16. Get a new hairstyle. Or if you already like your hair, get a hot oil treatment.

17. Enjoy your guilty pleasure. Watch the Sex Bomb Dancers gyrate, eat junk food, join a phone-in radio contest, chat, stare at yourself in the mirror for a looong time. Don't worry, we won't tell.

18. Jump up and down on your bed. But please don't break it.

19. Watch cartoons.

20. Wear your pajamas all day.

21. Look at your old family albums.

22. For kicks, go to a fortune teller.

23. Sing your lungs out at a videoke bar. If money is running low, do it at home.

24. Take a long bath.

25. Buy a new bottle of perfume—a scent you've never tried before.

26. Get a new pair of shoes that makes you feel really really good.

27. Sleep all day.

28. Buy nice underwear.

29. Buy a new pillow, maybe even new sheets.

30. Bake cookies or brownies for yourself. If you're nice, share the calories with your friends.

31. Go to a comedy club and laugh yourself off.

32. Envision your favorite meal and then go out and get it. Have appetizers at one restaurant, a main course at another and dessert at still another.

33. Go to the arcade and play your heart out. Shoot hoops, race cars, play the drums and trip all over the dance machine.

34. Watch the sunset or the sunrise. Take pictures.

35. Buy a coloring book and crayons and enjoy yourself. Who said this activity is just for 5-year-olds?

36. Learn something new—play the guitar, study HTML, discover your badminton skills.

37. Have a pampering party for one. Slap on a face mask, give yourself a body scrub and moisturize.

38. Go for a long drive. If you don't drive, go for a long ride.

39. Spend a lazy day in bed.

40. Get a pet.

41. Wear something you usually wouldn't wear. Surprise yourself.

42. Buy a punching bag and take your frustrations out on it.

43. Eat dessert first.

44. Rent a hotel room in your own city, enjoy the view from high up, bask in the luxury of living like a tourist even for just one day.

45. Take photos of yourself using your camera's self-timer. Discover your best angle.

46. Hold your own fashion show. Try on your old clothes, buy new ones and discover new ways to maximize your wardrobe.

47. Cook an elaborate dinner for yourself.

48. Wear something sexy. But remember, sexy and sleazy are worlds apart.

49. Revert to your childhood. Suck on a lollipop, eat gum and blow large bubbles.

50. Have your face painted.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

DESIGNER PJ Arañador with Amelia de la Cruz, who was formerly based in New York, and a cast of 80 Ilonggo models

CARNELIA green *abaca* bustier and hand-blocked printed silk skirt with *piña seda* wrap

Fabric and fashion resurrection

PIÑA pili slip-through barong and *piña* wedding gown embellished with fossilized leaves

AFTER a most recent stint in Paris as the only Filipino designer among a French team of designers working for France S.A., one of the biggest European lifestyle showrooms, international designer PJ Arañador returned to his birthplace in Iloilo to stage Paseo de Iloilo.

The fashion show event and exhibit of contemporary wear and objects using Panay handloom fabrics aimed to rescue such traditional fabrics as *hablon*, *patadyong* and *kulambo* from latter-day obscurity.

The decline of the Iloilo weaving industry was due to the flooding of Manchester cotton as a result of the opening of Iloilo ports to world trade by the turn of the century. Today, 60 percent of the garments in Philippine retail are made in China.

Arañador has worked on textile development under the Ministry of Textile of the Government of India and with the Artesanias de Colombia of the Ministry of Economic Development of Colombia.

His approach to encourage patronage of indigenous fabrics is to mix commercial fabrics with hand-woven textiles, developing new exciting blends and introducing Filipino-inspired but not too ethnic contemporary wearables, accessories and footwear.

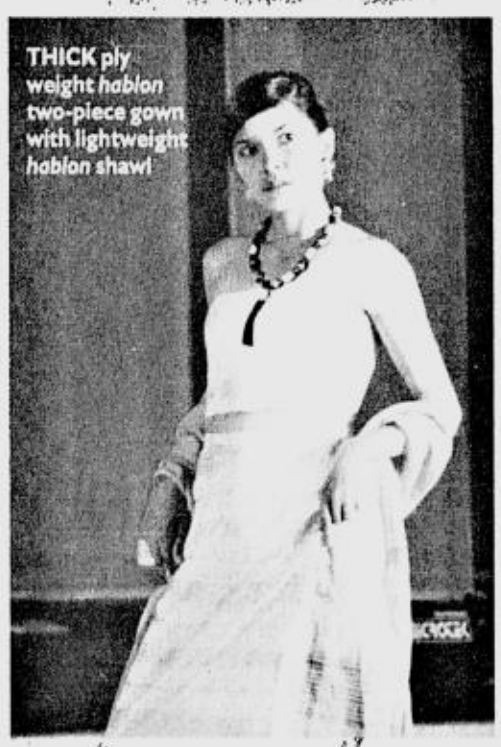
Arañador used the Spring-Summer 2004-2005 color forecast of Premiere Vision, the world's leading trends provider in textile and fashion design, for his collection.

The show was held at Central Philippine University (CPU), which will also sponsor a fashion exhibit using Panay fabrics to celebrate its centennial next year.

Paseo de Iloilo was presented by the CPU Cultural Affairs Office and CPU HS 1977 Alumni Association headed by Stella Aileen Jamandre, project chair. Arañador was assisted by La Salle College International School of Fashion design graduates Chrissie Matheson from Scotland and Pocholo Santos.

GRAPHIC black and white *hablon*, silk and *piña*

SERPENTINA *patadyong* gown mixed with *hablon*



THICK ply weight *hablon* two-piece gown with lightweight *hablon* shawl

PJ Arañador's Paseo de Iloilo fashion exhibit showcased the beauty and versatility of indigenous fabrics such as the 'hablon,' 'patadyong' and 'kulambo'

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOJO PALOMA

Opera ball presents debutantes

THE VIENNA Opera Ball 2004 Debutantes. Photo shows (standing) Katrina Rigor, Jonina Tanchangco, Katrina Sheena Marie Que, Marie Josephine Rigor, Dorothy How, Karl Porsha Tanjutco, Karen Michelle Bitanga and Ma. Cristina Rigor. Seated are the performing artists and advisers: opera artist Deeda Barretto, advisers Austrian Ambassador Dr. Christian Krepela and Mme. Irmgard Krepela and opera artist Nolyn Cabahug.

EUROPE'S grandest annual ball unfolds once again in Manila on Feb. 27 when the Johann Strauss Society Inc. stages its third debutantes' ball, the "Vienna Opera Ball and the Presentation of Debutantes 2004," at the Le Pavilion Metropolitan Park on Roxas Boulevard.

This year's ball will be for the benefit of the Alay Kapwa Kilusang Pangkalusugan's hospice care programme for terminally ill cancer patients.

This ball will introduce 10 young ladies, aged 16-22 years old, to an audience composed of the diplomatic corps and business and social luminaries.

Besides the debutantes, the evening also features a number of foreign and local artists, namely: Austrian conductor Ernest Hoetzl, who returns to Manila to conduct the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra; noted Filipino tenor Nolyn Cabahug and soprano Deeda Barretto. Austrian choreographer Susanne Jankula will choreograph the traditional debutantes' waltz, while Filipino choreographer Gener Caringal will provide lessons in basic waltz.

"The evening is as much for our philanthropic guests as it is for the debutantes," says Letty Syquia, overall chair of the debutantes' ball. To this end, a *rigodon de honor,* to be participated by members of the diplomatic corps and the Johann Strauss Society, and prominent figures in society, arts and culture, is also included in the programme.

Others in the organizing committee of the 2004 ball are: Helmut Gaisberger and David Thomas, general manager and director of food and beverage of Mandarin Oriental, with interior designer Junjun Ablaza for décor and production; Mellie Ablaza, Alice Guerrero, Helen Ong, Marietha Holmgren and Naty Pappas for ads and sponsorship; Fortune Ledesma and Mellie Ablaza for the *rigodon de honor*; Johnny Litton and Charisse Chuidian for public relations and publicity; Irmgard Krepela and Ulrike da Silva, spouses of the Austrian and Portuguese Ambassadors, respectively, as advisers; and Austrian Trade Commissioner Wolfgang Harwalik.

The Johann Strauss Society Inc. is a non-stock, non-profit organization that was formed in 1999 (coinciding with the 100th year of Austrian composer Johann Strauss) by individuals whose common bond was their love for the music of Strauss and other Austrian composers.

The society aims to enhance and develop appreciation of music and dance, participate in fund-campaign activities, help and assist the youth in developing civic, social, and charitable awareness and conduct events as venues for cultural exchange. Founding chair and president is Kay Siazon.

Call 7508888 local 2222.

LETTY Syquia, overall chair of the debutantes' ball

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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RAUL Roco

FERNANDO Poe Jr.

DANDING Cojuangco

MANNY Pangilinan

Presidential bets lead 2004 Bedan honorees

ON FEB. 19, during its annual Red and White Ball to be held at the NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City, the San Beda College Alumni Association (SBCAA) will once again honor a select group of outstanding Bedans via three major awards.

Receiving special recognition are two of the most popular names this election season: Bedan alumnis and presidentiables Fernando Poe Jr., an acclaimed legend in the field of moviemaking, a writer, actor and director; and Raul Roco, a former senator admired for his staunch advocacy of giving free education to the less privileged.

In the Business and Industry sector, the Most Distinguished Bedan award will be given to a number of prominent business personalities, led by Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, chair of San Miguel Corporation, and Manuel V. Pangilinan, president and chief executive officer of PLDT.

Other honorees include Filinvest chair Andrew Gotianun, franchise king Sammy Lim, McGeorge Industries president George Yang, Robert Coyiuto and Billy Ong, among others.

The 2004 Ramon Mitra Award of Distinction, given by SBCAA together with the family of the late Speaker Ramon V. Mitra, an outstanding Bedan, will be awarded to Rep. Eduardo Nachura and Rep. Enrico Echiverri for authoring important laws which have resulted in positive and sustainable changes in the Filipino economy and way of life.

In the field of sports, six Filipino Bedan athletes who helped shape Philippine sports will be elevated to the San Beda Sports Hall of Fame.

The honorees include Arturo R. Macapagal, who was chosen the Most Outstanding Shooter by the Philippine Sportswriters Association in 1973-74 and represented the country in various international competitions, including the Olympic Games in Munich in 1972 and Montreal in 1976.

The other awardees are Rafael Barretto, Loreto Carbonell, Antonio Genato, Eduardo Lim and Ponciano Saldana.

GEORGE Yang

LORETO Carbonell

PONCIANO Saldana

SIENA College HS Batch '74 with school officials

Siena College HS batch '74 holds homecoming

THE SIENA College of Quezon City high school batch 1974 recently held a homecoming at the Siena College grounds.

It was a night of friendship, laughter, bonding and even tears as over 30 students of the batch came together for the event, some of them flying in from US and Europe to be counted. The homecoming celebration was the first to be arranged in 30 years.

Opening the event was a Mass celebrated by Fr. Larry Faraon. An induction of batch officers followed, then a public acknowledgment of current Siena College officials who lent their support to the homecoming.

The highlight of the reunion was the pledge of the batch to donate to the night school of their Alma Mater. Sienna College's night school aims to provide education to out-of-school youth.

The batch also set up a fund to support less-fortunate batchmates in need of monetary assistance.

IME Cancio-Lim, faculty member Cora Kabigting, Binky Samson-Marcadesh, lawyer Jolly Montero-Cruz and Cherry Solano

ALUMNAE Lilian Lee-Becker, Lizanne Martinez, Vivian Perez, Marie Sumulong-Santos and Ditas Cuevas-Rabara, all flying in from overseas

Sunday LIFESTYLE

For feedback, text us at (0918) 382-4061 or (0916) 200-1160 lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

HEART Evangelista plays Beauty in the fairy tale classic, with Repertory Philippines' Niccolo Manahan as the Beast.

Beauty and her Beast go malling

Ayala Malls and Repertory Philippines present the well-loved fairy tale

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Roger Carpio

MALLS may have become places for leisure, but people always welcome something different and more worthwhile.

The Ayala Malls has come up with something even more innovative. A partnership with Repertory Philippines will give families a chance to spend a day in the theater for free right in the heart of a mall.

"Both Ayala Malls and Repertory Philippines share the vision of being the best—in service or artistry," says Rowena Tomeldon, associate vice president of Ayala Center Commercial Group. "Our mutual objective is to use theater as a tool to bring an expanded cultural experience to the Filipino."

The first product of this collaboration, "Beauty and the Beast," one of the most popular fairy tales, will have a series of free performances in all Ayala malls in Metro Manila and Cebu starting Feb. 20.

Two popular teenage movie-television stars will alternate as Beauty—Heart Evangelista and Jodi Sta. Maria.

Talented young Repertory actor Niccolo Manahan will play the Beast. Supporting the teen stars are other Repertory Philippines talents led by Michael Williams.

Directed by Joy Virata and choreographed by Jaime del Prado, the full-length musical was actually staged last year by Repertory Philippines.

For the mall run, the theater company is

BEAUTY/ J4

Heny Sison

THE ESSENTIAL BAKING AND PASTRY SERIES: This 26-day hands-on **summer intensive cooking class is** our innovative way of teaching the basics of cooking and baking. This program is for anyone who wants to work towards becoming a professional chef. Classes begin on **April 19, 2004 to May 14, 2004.** Classes are held **Mondays thru Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**
We are now accepting enrollees for the May batch of **THE ESSENTIAL BAKING & PASTRY SERIES!**
Tuition fee includes ingredients, manual, aprons, chef's jacket and chef's kit.
For more information call! **726-5316 and 412-7792** and ask for Lirio or Rita.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

March 1 (Monday) 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (Classroom A) BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison, P1,500 *Butter Cake w/ Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake w/ Fudge Icing, Mocha Cake w/ No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake w/ Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake w/ Whipped Cream Icing

March 1 (Monday) 2:00 - 5:30 p.m. (Classroom A) CAKES WITH DISTINCTION by: Heny Sison, P1,500 *Sinful Chocolate Cake, Caramel Cake, Custard Cake, Canonigo with Crème Anglaise & Mango Coulis and Layered Brazo de Mercedes

March 1 (Monday) 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Classroom B) DOUGHNUT WORKSHOP, by: Chef Jane Paredes, Food Consultant, co-owner of Simply Desserts trained at the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, New York and Peter Kump's New York Cooking School **P2,500 * Recipes**: Sugar Honey-Glazed, Caramel Pecan, Chocolate Nut, Mango Glazed, Chocolate Bavarian, Blueberry Filled, Strawberry Filled, Apple Filled, Twist Cinnamon Sugar & Beignets (French Doughnuts)

March 2-5/8-12 1st week (Tues-Fri) 2nd week (Mon-Fri) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Classroom A) MASTER IN CAKE DECORATION / BASIC by: Heny Sison, P16,000 * A 9-day practical basic cake decorating designed for shop owner, teacher, baker, chef and enthusiast. Includes fancy borders, over 20 icing flowers, color flow, method of printing and script, sugar molding, flower bunching, figure piping, decorated cookies, birthday & wedding cake assembly. **Full participation.**

March 6 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Classroom A) SIOPAO & MAMI WORKSHOP by: Chef Katherine Sison, restaurateur (Ding Hao & Fat Kat), food consultant to caterer & an expert in Chinese Cuisine **P2,500** * Chicken Bola-bola Pao, Asado Pao, Bola-bola Pao, Jumbo Siopao with Chinese Sausage, Chicken Asado Mami & Beef Mami

March 8 (Monday) 10:00 a.m-4:00 p.m. (Classroom B) TEMPTING CHOCOLATE DESSERTS II by: Chef Jill Sandique, Food Consultant & Food Stylist, Blue Ribbon graduate of Peter Kump's New York Cooking School **P1,500** * Molten Chocolate Cake, Chocolate Cream Roll, Chocolate Fudge Cake, Cream Cheese Brownies, Chocolate Strawberry Tartlets and Chocolate Almond Buttercrunch

March 15 (Monday) 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Classroom A) MY FAVORITE CAKES by: Heny Sison, P1,500 * Caramel Cake II, Banana Nut Cake, Pandan - Macapuno Cake, Flourless Chocolate Cake, Peach Walnut Torte and Brazo de Mercedes

March 15 (Monday) 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Classroom B) HOMEMADE SAUSAGES, CONDIMENTS & MARINADE WORKSHOP by: Chef Jane Paredes, P2,500 Discover ways to transform meat, poultry & seafood into profitable menu items. **SAUSAGES:** Chorizo Bilbao, Longanisa Norgea, Italian Sausage, Seafood Sausage & Mexican Sausage. **CONDIMENTS:** Honey-Mustard Sauce, Sweet Pickles Chips & Atchara. **MARINADE:** Homemade Tapa, Homemade Bulgogi & Tocino **DISHES:** Sausage, Sauerkraut & Potato Casserole & Country Style Pork & Beans

March 16 (Tuesday) 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (Classroom A) SOFT PRETZEL WORKSHOP by: Heny Sison, P1,700 * Learn how to make hand rolled soft pretzels with a variety of toppings & dippings. Cinnamon Sugar, Whole Wheat Soft Pretzels, Poppy Seed, Coarse Salt and Sesame Seeds and more! Match them with cream cheese, caramel & soft cheese dippings

March 16 (Tuesday) 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. (Classroom A) MORE SOUPS & APPETIZERS by: Chef Aileen Anastacio, owner of Goodess N' Sweet Bakeshop & C'est Si Bon, Dean's list graduate of Culinary at the California Culinary Academy **P1,700** * **Soups:** Tomato Corn Tortilla, Cream of Carrot, French Onion, Cream of Mushroom & Potato and Corn Chowder * **Appetizer:** Crab Cake, Chicken Liver Pate and Olive Tapenade

March 17 (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Classroom A) DIMSUM II by: Chef Katherine Sison, P1,500 * Steamed Pork Spareribs in Tausi Sauce, Chicken Siomai, Sharkskin Siomai, Two Colors Siomai, Wanton Mami and Egg Tart

March 18 (Thursday) 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon (Classroom A) COFFEE! COFFEE! COFFEE! by: Chef Aileen Anastacio, P1,500 * If you are planning to open a coffee shop this course is for you. Learn fundamentals of coffee brewing, home espresso, guide to steaming & foaming. **Recipes:** Café Latte, Café Mocha, Café Americano, Cappuccino, Espresso Macchiato & Espresso Con Panna. Make fun toppings & garnishes & master the art of coffee making.

March 18 (Thursday) 1:00 -4:00 p.m. (Classroom B) DESSERT COFFEES by: Chef Aileen Anastacio, P1,200 * Learn how to make a variety of iced coffee drinks, a whole new category of ways to enjoy espresso. **Recipes:** Almond Coffee Freeze, Icy Rum Coffee Cream, Toffee Coffee, Mudslide Malt, Mocha Rumba, Rocky Road, Mocha Malt and more!

March 19 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Classroom B) FAVORITE PASTA DISHES by: Chef Jill Sandique, P 1,700 * Learn how to cook your favorite pasta dishes the easy way. Sauces to be taught in the class are the fr. Puttanesca, Carbonara, Pomodoro, Alfredo, Bolognese and Primavera plus bonus recipes.

March 19 (Friday) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Classroom A) PARADE OF PIES, TARTS & CHEESECAKES by: Heny Sison, P1,700 * French Apple Pie with Streusel Topping and Crème Anglaise Sauce, Tortila Pie, Banana Cream Pie with Whipped Cream and Caramel Topping, Mango Tart, Peach Walnut Pie, Blueberry Cheesecake & White Chocolate Cheesecake

March 19 (Friday) 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Classroom B) FAVORITE BREADS by: Chef Jill Sandique, P 1,500 * Butter Rolls, 2 Kinds of Cinnamon Rolls, Pecan Sticky Buns, Dinner Rolls and Southern Italian Homestyle Pizza

March 20 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Classroom A) PIZZA CLASS WORKSHOP by: Chef Giorgio Buccarelli, Master Pizzaiolo & Barista, food Consultant of various Italian restaurants all over Metro Manila, graduated at Culinary Institute Milan, Italy **P 2,500** * In this class you will learn the history, concept and design of pizza making. Learn how to make pizza dough, tomato base sauce, white sauce base, preparation, set up pizza counter, know the ingredients and toppings. **Recipes:** Margherita, Napoli Classica, 4 Formaggi, Pizza Vegetariana, La Gibiana, Piccantina, 4 Stagioni, Calzone & Frutti di Mare. **Demonstration with student participation.**

March 20 (Saturday) 11:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Classroom B) MY PERSONAL SPANISH FAVORITES by: Chef Ed Quimson, is a seasoned master chef of Spanish origin, creator of RASTRO Tapas Bar & Restaurant at Rockwell. He has also lent his expertise to such restaurants as La Tasca, Via Mare, The Nielsen Tower, the Member's Lounge of the Phil. Stock Exchange & the Subic Yacht Club **P 1,700** * **Recipes:** Tigres (Fried Stuffed Mussels), Arroz Abanda (Paella Rice served with Poached Seafood and Aioli Sauce), Pastel de Bakal, Callos, Natillas, Pescado al Ponalli and Fabada Asturiana

March 22 (Monday) 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Classroom A) BAKING 101 by: Chef Jill Sandique, P 1,500 * Peach Upside Down Cake, Triple Chocolate Brownies, Chocolate Cream Pie, Pavlova, Pecan Pie Bars and Russian Tea Cakes

March 22 (Monday) 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Classroom B) ANYTHING ABOUT BANANA by: Chef Jane Paredes, P 1,500 * Homemade Banana Catsup, 5-Star Banana Bread, Choco Banana Fritter with Orange Sabayon Sauce, Banana Cream Tart (with chewy filling), Banana Prune Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting and fresh Banana Tiramisu

March 23 (Tuesday) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Classroom A) CHOCOLATE ARTISTRY by: Heny Sison, P 2,000 * Professional techniques for creating fabulous candies from molded treats to truffle. Learn how to temper, flavor and color chocolates. Learn how to make chocolate lollipops, 3-D hollow molded chocolates, chocolate house & hand molded rose out of chocolate plastic icing. Packaging ideas will be shown in the class. You'll surprise your family by bringing home chocolate made in the class

March 24 (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Classroom A) BAKING 102 by: Chef Jill Sandique, P 1,500 * Dark Chocolate Cake with Caramel Sauce, Sour Cream Streusel Coffee Cake, Rum Butter Cake, Fruit Tarts, Mango Bars and Sesame Spice Cookies

March 25 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Classroom A) BREAD BAKING WORKSHOP by: Chef Jill Sandique, P 2,500 * Brioche Egg Pan de Sal, Anadama Bread, Cinnamon Coffee Cake, Multigrain Bread, Pullman, American Black and Braided Loaf

March 25 (Thursday) 1:00 -5:00 p.m. (Classroom B) JAPANESE RICE TOPPINGS by: Chef Koichi Kondo, Licensed cook from Chima, Japan & Food consultant to various Japanese restaurants in Metro Manila **P 1,700 Recipes** Oyako-don (Chicken & Egg on Rice), Gyudon (Beef Bowl), Tendon (Tempura Bowl) Katsu-don (Pork Cutlet Bowl), Sobora-don (Minced Chicken & Egg Bowl), Tori Teriyaki-don (Chicken Teriyaki) plus bonus Recipe: Chahan (Japanese Fried Rice)

March 26 (Friday) 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Classroom A) MODERN CLASSIC DESSERTS by: Chef Jill Sandique, P 1,500 * Pineapple Upside Down Cake, Potato Crunch Cake, Mocha Praline Cake, Blitz Torte, Ube Mousse Cake & Canonigo

March 29 (Monday) 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Classroom A) LUSCIOUS DESSERTS by: Chef Jill Sandique, P 1,700 * White Chocolate Mousse, Cappuccino Charlotte, Concordia Dark Chocolate Crème Brulee, White Chocolate Cheesecake, Meringue Kisses with Whipped Cream and Strawberries

March 29 (Monday) 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Classroom B) BURGERS & STEAKS by: Chef Jane Paredes P 1,700 * **BURGERS:** Italian Burger, Beef Tex Mex Burger, Chicken Burger & Traditional Beef Burger. **STEAKS:** Rib-eye, Tenderloin & T Bone. **SAUCES:** Bercy Green Peppercorn Sauce & Café de Paris. **SIDINGS:** Potato Gratin & Potato Puree

March 30 (Tuesday) 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Classroom A) BREAKFAST AND TEA TIME TREATS by: Chef Jill Sandique, P 1,700 * Churros, Puffy Pillows, Cornmeal Cranberry Muffins, Blueberry Muffins, Scones and Chocolate Banana Loaf plus bonus recipe

March 30 (Tuesday) 9:30 a.m.-12:30 noon (Classroom B) FOR GARLIC LOVERS by: Chef Aileen Anastacio, P 1,700 * Shrimp Gambas, Churizo and Garlic Pasta, Chicken with 40 Cloves of Garlic, Steak a la Pobre, Seared Prawns with Lemon, Garlic & Basil Sauce and Garlic Mashed Potato

March 30 (Tuesday) 1:30-5:30 p.m. (Classroom B) THAI COOKING WORKSHOP by: Chef Aileen Anastacio, P 2,500 * Crispy Catfish Salad with Mango, Chicken Pandan, Fish Fillet with Chili Garlic Sauce, Phad Thai, Tom Yum Gung & Thai Dessert

March 31 (Wednesday) 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Classroom A) BUNDT CAKES by: Heny Sison, P 1,500 * Chocolate-Cheese Swirled Cake, Marbled Coffee Cake, Cinnamon Streusel Cake, Blueberry Coffee Cake and Orange Rum Cake

March 31 (Wednesday) 1:30-5:30 p.m. (Classroom A) CHEESECAKE GALLERY by: Heny Sison, P 1,500 * Cappuccino Cheesecake, New York Cheesecake, Pastillas de Leche Cheesecake, Caramel Cheesecake White Chocolate Chunk Macadamia Nut Cheesecake and Pina Colada Cheesecake

March 31 (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Classroom B) BAKED PASTA by: Chef Jill Sandique, P 1,700 * Classic Lasagne, Manicotti, Chicken Mushroom and Ham Casserole, Baked Macaroni, Penne with Seafood and Asparagus

HENY SISON AT JULIUS MAGGI KITCHEN
Nestle Bldg. #31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City

March 6 (Saturday) 1:00 -5:30 p.m. SPECIAL COURSE ON COOKIES P 1,500 * Chocolate Chip Cookies, JamThumbprint, Peanut Butter Cookies, Lemon Bars, Chocolate Cups, Oatmeal and Chocolate Cookies

March 22 (Monday) 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. SECRETS NO MORE! P 3,000 * Decadent Chocolate Cake w/ Fudge Icing & Caramel Sauce, Lemon Torte, Ensaymada, Almond Sanzrival, Strawberry Shortcake & Ube Cake

March 24 (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. BAKING I P 1,500 * Supermoist Chocolate Cake with Mocha Filling & Fudge Icing, Crispy Sylvana, Cream Puff, Butterscotch Bars & Sables

TUITION FEE includes ingredients. **Reservation is required. WEDDING CAKE & BIRTHDAY CAKE** orders by appointment only. We sell Cake Decorating, Confectionery and Baking Supplies.

WATCH "A TASTE OF LIFE WITH HENY SISON"
At IBC Channel 13 every Sunday, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

FOR RESERVATIONS & INQUIRIES
visit or call us at:
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TRAVEL

Editor Rosario A. Garcellano

Obidos Somewhere in time

CENTURIES-OLD houses and their ivied walls

Text and photos by Rafael R. Castillo
Contributor

MENTION Portugal and the first place that comes to mind is Fatima, where the Virgin Mary appeared before three young shepherds. But there is another historic town worth visiting there—the quaint Obidos.

The town, whose foundation is attributed to the Trudulis and Celts who protected it with a mighty wall around 308 B.C., sits on an arid and bare hill at the Estremadura in western Portugal. It is 73 kilometers away from the capital city of Lisbon.

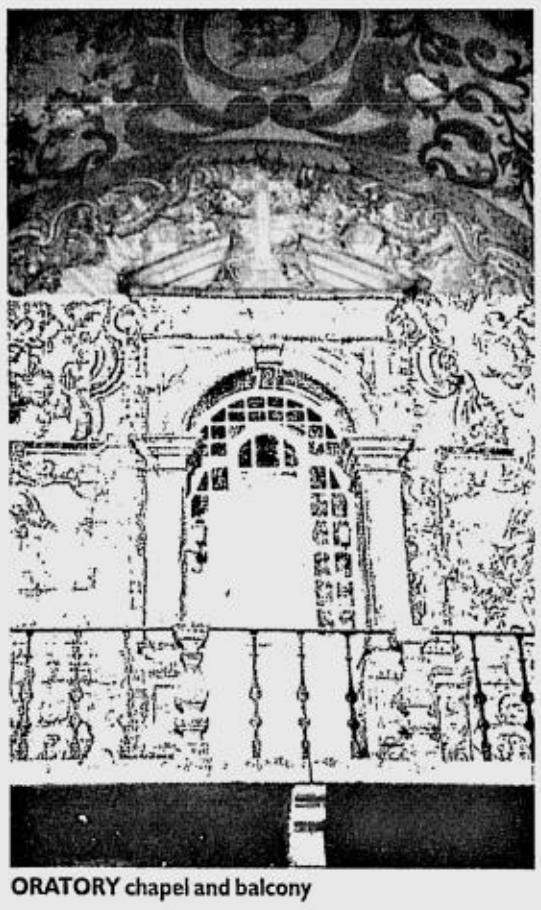
The origin of its name remains unclear. Some suggest that "Obidos" came from the same Latin word, the meaning of which Isabella Vargas, our guide, could not remember. But some people say the name was likely derived from the Roman "Oppidum." Indeed, even today, some parts of the wall seem to echo the time when Romans ruled.

Obidos is known throughout Portugal as "The Wedding City" because, starting from 1282, it was the traditional wedding gift of Portuguese kings to their beloved queens. Accounts have it that in 1444, King Alfonso V, then only 10 years old, married his 8-year-old cousin, Isabella, in the old church at the central square.

The town is still surrounded by an antiquated 1,565-meter wall. A Porta da Vila welcomes visitors at the entrance.

Above this door is an inscription—"A Virgen Nossa Senhora foi concebida sem pecado original" (Our Lady the Virgin who was conceived without original sin)—which Don João IV ordered placed there to immortalize the protection of the Patroness during the Restoration of Independence in 1640. Just inside the door is an oratory chapel with a balcony covered with 18th-century painted tiles.

Ancient cobblestone streets crisscross the town—narrow and sinuous alleys that, together with a Moorish castle, numerous monuments, and highly preserved churches, give Obidos a distinct charm.



ORATORY chapel and balcony

The Rua Direita, the main street known by this name as early as the 16th century, stretches from the Porta da Vila to the Moorish castle.

The castle dates back to the Roman domination and is built over the remains of a previous fortification. When the Arabs conquered Obidos, they used the castle as a fortress against invading groups from the north.

It was during the reign of Lord Joao de Noronha that the castle achieved its palace-like look. An earthquake in 1755 extensively ruined it, and it remained decrepit until it was rebuilt in the middle of the 20th century.

Today, the castle functions as a lodging house, providing hospitable service with a touch of royalty.

A strong Mediterranean influence pervades the whole town. White-washed houses with tiled roofs, stone doors and window frames adorned by multicolored flowers and vines, indicate its medieval past.

YE OLDE shops

Churches dominate the modest skyline, transporting the visitor back to the time when the Catholic clergy held sway over much of Europe.

One is St. Peter's Church, which dates back to the Middle Ages. Before the 1775 earthquake destroyed it, the church had three naves and an arcade supported on columns. Part of the old portal is embedded in its new façade.

An imposing structure inside the church is its high altar entirely made of gilded woodcarving and styled in old baroque. At the pulpit stands a religious painting, made by João da Costa, depicting St. Peter receiving the keys to Heaven from Jesus Christ.

In front of the church stands St. Martin's Chapel, founded by Pêro Fernandes in 1320 and the only medieval chapel still existing in Obidos.

On the chapel's façade, above the porch, is a Gothic inscription testifying to its ancient existence. Outside, two tombs provide a somewhat eerie touch.

The Mother Church of St. Mary, the parish church, boasts a beautiful stylish entrance surmounted by an image of Our Lady of the Assumption, the patroness of Obidos.

Its interior is entirely covered with "azulejos" (blue and white glazed tiles) that date back to the early baroque period. Its ceiling is made of wood, with paintings from the late Renaissance period of the 17th century providing color and drama.

Nearby is the Municipal Museum, a restored building with a sizable collection of paintings (including an outstanding one by Josefa de Óbidos), sculptures, archaeology, and weapons dating as far back as the Peninsular War.

During the 16th century, the structure served multiple purposes: as town hall, courthouse, and, later, prison. It became the town museum after a restoration period in 1962-1970.

According to Isabella, our very efficient guide, Obidos is also an excellent venue for soaking in the sun and various aquatic sports.

To the west is the famous Obidos lagoon, 6 km long and 2.5 km wide, and said to be the largest in all of Portugal. It is connected to the Atlantic Ocean through its four channels and small gulfs.

One of its beautiful beaches is the "Rei Cortiço," its calm waters providing relief to the weary soul. There are also fine sports amenities, including an 18-hole golf course, tennis courts, a swimming pool and even a riding center.

Fishing was a popular pastime among Portuguese kings. Now, those who enjoy fishing are allowed to make the lagoon their aquatic kingdom (eels and other marine species abound in its unpolluted waters).

The "bateira, a traditional fishing boat that looks like a small gondola, may be used for fishing or for a leisurely sail.

CRAFTSWOMAN at work

Like the Philippines, Obidos celebrates a fiesta in almost any given month of the year. The summer months are the busiest, when many cultural and tourism events (such as the Festival of Early Music) take place.

Surprisingly, for its size, Obidos offers high standards of tourist accommodations. It has a number of impressive hotels and lodging houses, ranging from the highly recommended Pousada do Castelo, the first state inn situated in a historical building, to the small but comfortable rooms in carefully preserved "turismo de habitação" (private houses).

Food lovers would find the town a delight. There is an abundance of fish and other seafood because of the proximity of the sea and the lagoon. The fertile land produces delicious vegetables and grazing for cattle, which translate into excellent meat dishes.

For desserts, the "Trouxas de Ovos," "Lampreia das Gaeiras," "Mouras" and "Alcaides" are good examples of the region's mouth-watering confectionery. The juicy Rocha pear, produced in the farm land of Usseira, is cherished by the locals.

Party people and bar habitues will not be bored. Although the nightlife is not as vibrant as that in popular Ibiza, a few discos and bars provide good Portuguese ambience all night long. Sipping "Gaeiras," "Oiro de Óbidos," and the traditional "Ginginha" (a sour-cherry liqueur) to the tune of the traditional Obidos beat or hip music can make a memorable late-night gimmick.

But the pleasant disposition of the locals is perhaps why Obidos is guaranteed to impress tourists of any color, expectation and temperament.

Handicraft is a deeply rooted art among the locals, and on the street, it is heartening to see old women sitting peacefully and humming a tune while crocheting a lovely piece of art. Completed pieces are laid on the pavement for passersby to appreciate and, hopefully, buy.

Artists do their thing in the busy alleys, offering their work and explaining enthusiastically how these came to be. They may be pulling your leg, but you don't mind; they remain as pleasant even if you don't buy their stuff.

Pottery stands out as Obidos' best known handicraft product, a tradition that goes back to the days of the Roman occupation. Rugs and cloth made of wool and cotton, intricate embroidery, and hand painting on ceramic tiles, calabash or brass, make good souvenirs to remember your visit by.

Trudging the narrow paths of Obidos is such an unforgettable experience, transporting you back to the time when Romans ruled over much of Europe and Arabs conquered the Iberian Peninsula.

Contemporary Obidos still draws neo-colonizers, in the form of tourists. But who can stop them from doing so when the place is so lovely and so timeless?

But perhaps it's the tourists who get emotionally colonized when they set foot on Obidos.

Dr. Rafael Castillo writes Medical Files, a weekly column in the Health & Science section of the INQUIRER.

TRAVELBRIEFS

New business class

NORTHWEST Airlines has presented major enhancements to its new World Business Class product, including a lie-flat bed seat, state-of-the-art in-flight entertainment system, and changes in its meal service.

The airline's premium customers in the Asia-Pacific region will enjoy the enhancements in its Boeing 747-400 and new Airbus A330 fleets.

The lie-flat seat allows passengers a recline of 176 degrees as well as a virtually infinite number of adjustments. It offers not only privacy and more legroom but also 110-volt personal computer power, cycling lumbar support, six-way adjustable headrest, swivel cocktail table, among others.

The entertainment system offers a wide variety of music, movies, games and shopping and in-flight data on a 10.4-inch video screen, all on demand.

As for the meal service, the airline will switch from serving mixed nuts to assorted cold appetizers. A large salad, with seasonal greens and gourmet toppings, quality breads and a choice of dressing, will also be served. Desserts will likewise be changed to include a choice of cheeses and fruits.

Northwest is the world's fourth largest airline, with hubs at Detroit, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Memphis, Tokyo and Amsterdam.

Tourism fair

FILIPINO festivals take center stage at "Pagdiriwang: Sining at Paglikha, Travel and Tourism Fair 2004," which opens at 3 p.m. today at the Carousel Court, Level 2, of Festival Supermall in Alabang, Muntinlupa.

The fair, presented by Festival Supermall, in cooperation with the Department of Tourism, showcases the diverse cultural landscapes of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Authentic songs and dances as well as arts and crafts demonstrations will mark the other festivities scheduled on Feb. 21-22 and 28-29.

Today's opening program will feature Metropop Song Festival grand prize winner Bayang Barrios. Starting at 1 p.m. experts from Paete, Laguna, will demonstrate the art of making *taka* (the local *papier-mâché*) and will be followed by a band playing popular Filipino folk songs.

At the closing program on Feb. 29, Bituin Escalante will sing soulful Filipino classics and the Sining Kumintang ng Batangas will perform a dance suite celebrating the dance forms of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

For details, call Customer Service at 850-3514 or visit www.festivalsupermall.com.

Panagbenga 2004

CAUSEWAY Tours will take merrymakers to Baguio's beloved flower festival, Panagbenga 2004, on Feb. 21-22.

The tour will include a visit to the Tam-awan Village, which showcases Ifugao tradition and culture; the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes; Mines View Park and Burnham Park; and the market, where one can purchase *pasalubong* like fresh vegetables, peanut brittle, strawberries and *ube* jam.

The Panagbenga (Kankanaey for "a season of blossoming") was first held in 1995; the organizers were then headed by lawyer Damaso Bangaoet.

Since then, the local government of Baguio as well as its business community and civic organizations, has given the annual festival its full backing.

For inquiries, call 472-5569 and 0916-3963963.

3-day tour

LOVERS of wildlife and historical ruins are invited to take part in Residence Inn Resorts' latest tour package, the "Dream Priceless Tour."

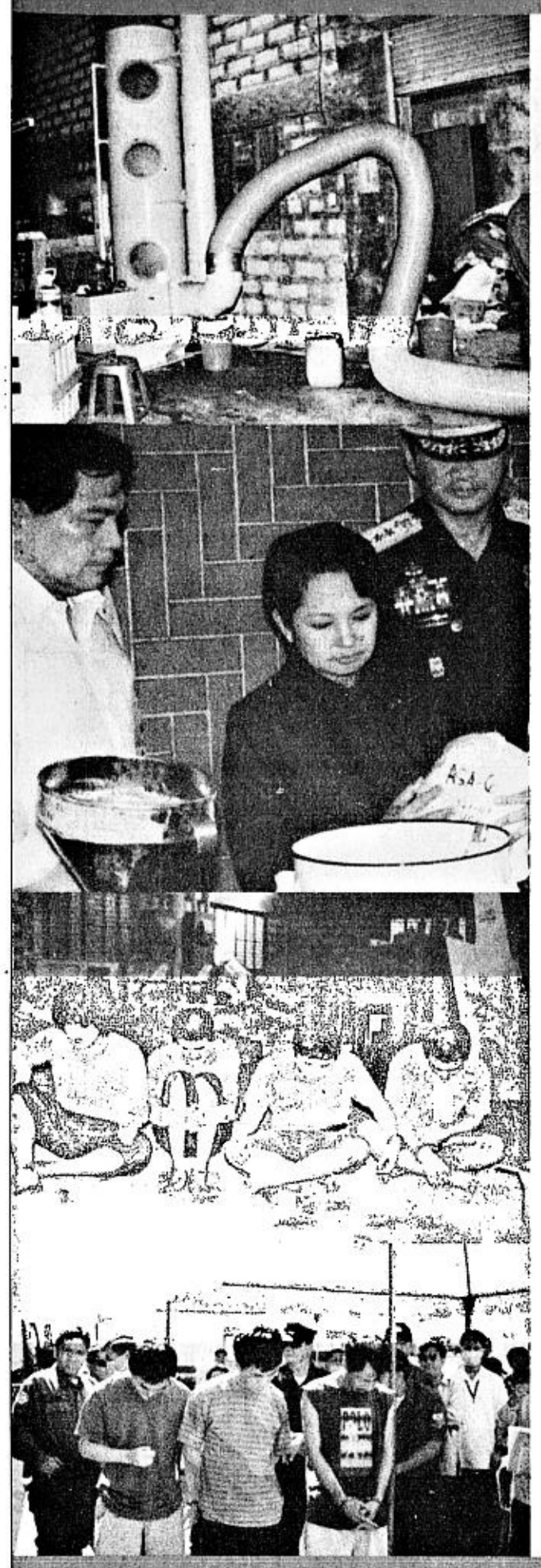
The three-day tour starts off on board a Mt. Samat cruise from the CCP terminal to Corregidor, where participants will experience the drama of World War II through a light and sound show at the Malinta Tunnel.

In Subic, participants will go to the Forest Adventure Park and explore its attractions, and to Zoobic Safari, the only safari theme park in the Philippines. There will also be a cultural show at the Subic Bay Arts Center, as well as options for duty-free shopping, golf, trekking and go-karting, among others.

This tour package covers first-class hotel accommodations, land and sea transfers, meals, and entrance fees to major tour attractions.

Other tour packages are available. For inquiries, call 899-9824 or 8957142, visit www.residenceinnresorts.com, or e-mail residenceinn@yupangconet.com.

VICTORIES HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED.



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the government arrested

23,425 drug offenders

and 249 policemen,

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P13 Billion worth of drugs,

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Beauty and her Beast go malling

From page J1

presenting the abridged Leprince de Beaumont's version, not Disney's.

"Beauty and the Beast," a story of true love, is one of the best-loved fairy tales in the world. Beauty sacrifices herself to save her father caught stealing an enchanted rose. She finds herself at the mercy of the hideous Beast, who owned the garden where the rose was picked.

She discovers the truth that lies beneath the creature's rough hide when she learns to look with her heart, not her eyes. By doing so, she breaks the spell on the Beast, who becomes his real good-looking self.

Since the performances will be in a mall, all songs and dialogues will be pre-recorded but using the stars' actual voices.

THE CAST of "Beauty and the Beast" led by Michael Williams, Heart Evangelista, Niccolo Manahan, Jodi Sta. Maria and Repertory Philippines talents

"I'm sad that it has to be lip-synched, but what can I do? You can't possibly attach microphones to them. The microphones will get all the feedback and noise in the mall," Virata says.

Virata says she has an easy time directing the teen stars. "They're very pleasant and nice to work with. The only thing I had to make them do was to 'expand' and reach out. They're used to movies and television with very little movements. I had to convince them that acting it big was not overacting as far as performing in a mall is concerned. In theater, you have to do a lot of body language, exaggerate a little for the audience."

With the help of Rep actors, the young stars are getting the hang of performing live on stage.

Schedule of shows of the 45-minute musical is as follows:

Ayala Center Makati, Feb. 20, 5 p.m., 7 p.m. (Evangelista); Feb. 21, 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m. (Sta. Maria); Feb. 22, 11 a.m., 3 p.m. (Sta. Maria);

Alabang Town Center, Feb. 27, 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. (Evangelista); Feb. 28, 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. (Sta. Maria); Feb. 29, 11 a.m., 3 p.m. (Sta. Maria) and 6 p.m. (Evangelista); and Ayala Center Cebu, March 5, 4 pm, 7:30 p.m. (Evangelista); March 6, 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m. (Sta. Maria); March 7, 11:30 a.m., 3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. (Sta. Maria); Pavilion Mall, March 13, 4 p.m. (Sta. Maria); and Metropoint, March 14, 6 p.m., (Evangelista).

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

Spiritual program in Tagaytay

THE CENTER for Spiritual Learning in Tagaytay City will conduct its first public program offering today 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

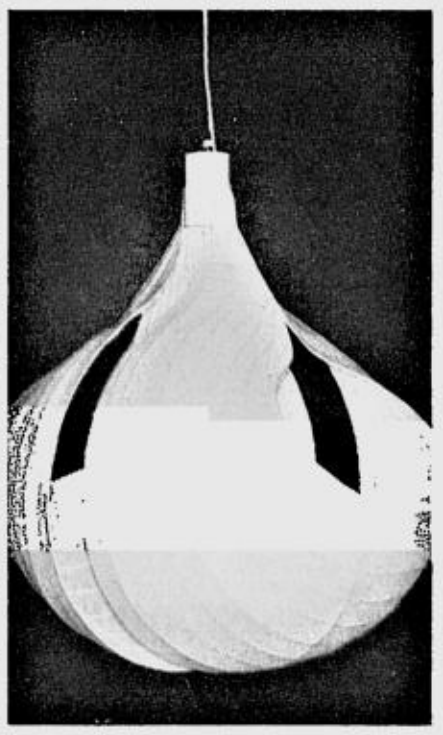
The "God is Love" program will "provide venues to experience the love of all loves," says Sr. Leela Aseneta, one of the center facilitators.

The CSL is a branch of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, which aspires to create a better world through personal transformation and the use of one's inner powers.

The university's teachings are funded on the premise that there is innate goodness in all human beings, regardless of race, color and creed.

Brahma Kumaris is affiliated with the United Nations as a nongovernmental organization. It holds a consultative status with Ecosoc and Unicef, and has received seven UN Peace Messenger Awards.

The program is open to all and free of charge. Vegetarian meals will also be served. Call (046) 4132128 or 8602257.



LISING Crafts Inc. is holding a sale on Feb. 17 with discounts of up 40 to 50 percent. Call 8934810 or 8926027 (2301 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City) or 7289398 or 7289399 (Glorietta 4, Level 3, Makati City).

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From page J1

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Schedule of shows of the 45-minute musical is as follows:

Ayala Center Makati, Feb. 20, 5 p.m., 7 p.m. (Evangelista); Feb. 21, 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m. (Sta. Maria); Feb. 22, 11 a.m., 3 p.m. (Sta. Maria);

Alabang Town Center, Feb. 27, 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. (Evangelista); Feb. 28, 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. (Sta. Maria); Feb. 29, 11 a.m., 3 p.m. (Sta. Maria) and 6 p.m. (Evangelista); and Ayala Center Cebu, March 5, 4 pm, 7:30 p.m. (Evangelista); March 6, 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m. (Sta. Maria); March 7, 11:30 a.m., 3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. (Sta. Maria); Pavilion Mall, March 13, 4 p.m. (Sta. Maria); and Metropoint, March 14, 6 p.m., (Evangelista).

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

Spiritual program in Tagaytay

THE CENTER for Spiritual Learning in Tagaytay City will conduct its first public program offering today 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The "God is Love" program will "provide venues to experience the love of all loves," says Sr. Leela Aseneta, one of the center facilitators.

The CSL is a branch of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, which aspires to create a better world through personal transformation and the use of one's inner powers.

The university's teachings are funded on the premise that there is innate goodness in all human beings, regardless of race, color and creed.

Brahma Kumaris is affiliated with the United Nations as a nongovernmental organization. It holds a consultative status with Ecosoc and Unicef, and has received seven UN Peace Messenger Awards.

The program is open to all and free of charge. Vegetarian meals will also be served. Call (046) 4132128 or 8602257.

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Fiesta mall
& Cebu WaterFront, Lahug
P49.99 = $1
FROM FEBRUARY 1 TO MARCH 14, 2004
OR PAY IN ANY FOREIGN CURRENCY AND GET THE CORRESPONDING DISCOUNT
*the discount on dollar purchases will be based on the percentage difference between the official Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas rate of the day and P49.99
The best things in life are duty free.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0235 Series of 2004

LISING Crafts Inc. is holding a sale on Feb. 17 with discounts of up 40 to 50 percent. Call 8934810 or 8926027 (2301 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City) or 7289398 or 7289399 (Glorietta 4, Level 3, Makati City).

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JOB Market

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2004
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P230 per column centimeter every Sunday
DEADLINES
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PART I

Where You Find The Best.

TeleTech
Your Customer Management Partner

TeleTech, the leading provider in global customer care solutions for over 20 years is seeking exceptional Call Center Professionals for our Manila Call Center Operations. With global infrastructure support our operations service broad range of North American clients. The depth of the organization offers the right person the potential to learn, develop and advance their career.

Essential requirements for all roles include 4 year College Degree, Exceptional English Conversational skills and a willingness to work night shift.

This Space Reserved For You.

We need Customer Service Representatives! Give us a call at 5529751 - 55

We just opened our doors to our finest, newest and biggest Site. Come work with us and experience what State Of The Art really means. Our advanced training and learning center will keep you up to speed with the right knowledge to keep you ahead of everyone else. Of course there are break rooms and shower rooms to keep you recharged. We're currently seeking Customer Service Representatives for our new project. To be part of our growth give us a call at 5529751-55 Mondays to Fridays from 10am to 6pm. You may also send us your resume at OPSjobs@ph.teletech.com. What are you waiting for? Join us now and be a part of our fast growing team!

www.teletech.com

We are expanding and sky's the limit. Our clients are multiplying and we're still ahead of the game.

We are in need of young, dynamic and assertive individuals who will help us stay ahead of the game!

Team Captains
- The first line supervisor of a team of CIAs.
- Proven team player & team leader with great people skills; can work well under pressure; can deliver excellent results with minimum supervision.
- Candidate must possess a minimum 1 year supervisory experience from any industry; call center experience a big plus.
- Must be customer-service and/or sales oriented. Willing to work in shifts including graveyard.

Operations Managers
- Responsible for managing the Program involving activities which contribute to the satisfaction and retention of customers.
- Candidate must have 2 to 3 years experience in a call center.
- Exposed to client-relationship management.
- Competencies include but not limited to: Business Mastery, Strategic Planning, Report Analysis, Forecasting, Project Management, Organizational Leadership, Relationship Management, Multi-tasking exercises.
- Experience working in a high volume , inbound contact center environment, locally or abroad.

Customer Interaction Associates
- The average Ambergris CIA is either a college senior, a fresh graduate from a top Philippine university, or a recent graduate with 1-2 years of experience. Associates will have to resolve situations, provide information, trace or execute requests as needed by our U.S. based customers.
- Strong verbal and written English communication.
- Must have very good customer service orientation and can relate well with people from different cultural backgrounds.
- Must be proficient in computer applications.
- Should be willing to work in shifts including graveyard.

Our latest addition to our portfolio of clients is one of the largest and most well established telecommunications company based in the United States . With an extensive span that serves more than 20 million business and residential customers, our client delivers a comprehensive selection of local-to-global business data, Internet and voice services to the Fortune 1000 companies.

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Walk-ins will be immediately interviewed
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JOB Market

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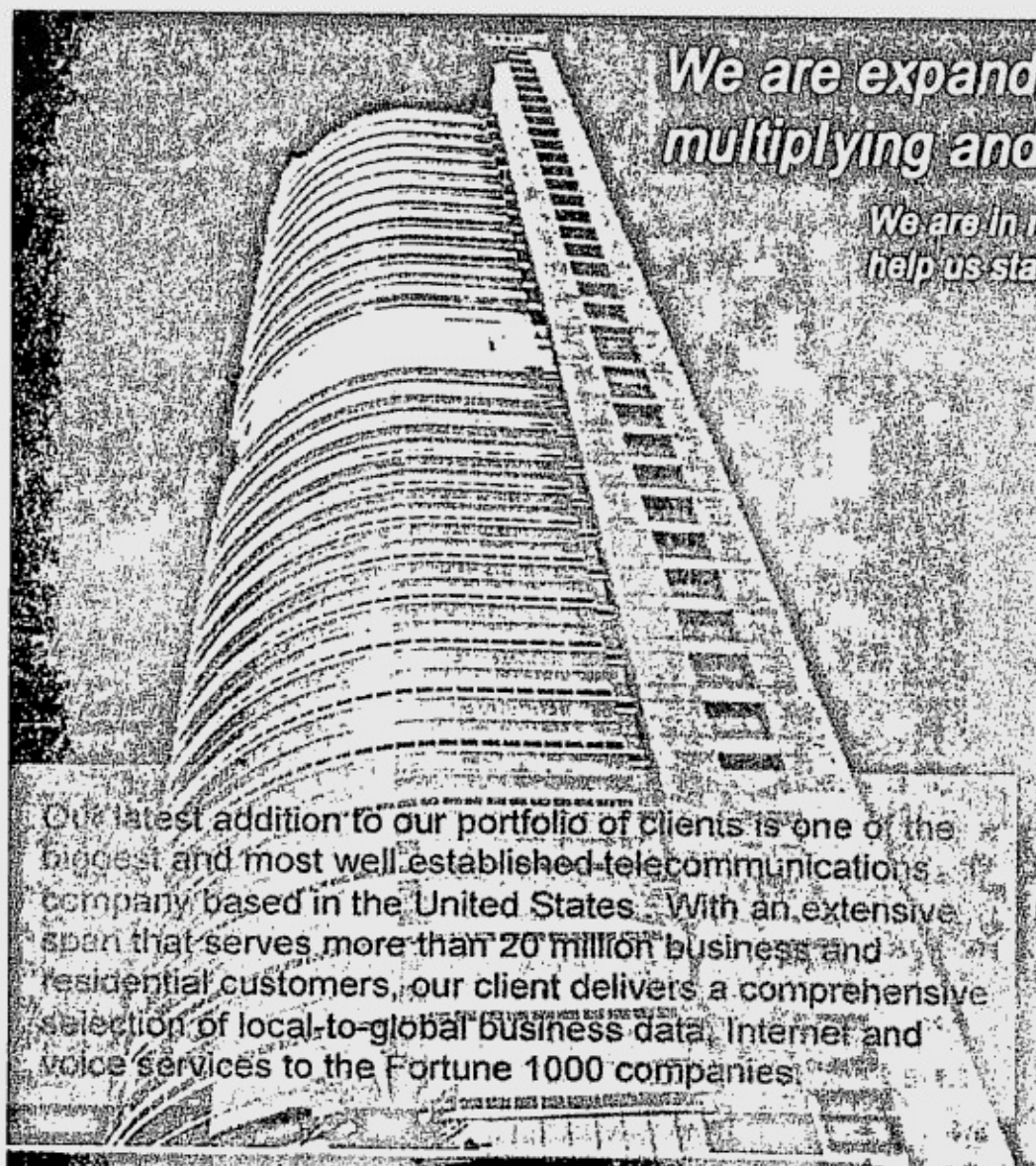
Essential requirements for all roles include 4 year College Degree, Exceptional English Conversational skills and a willingness to work night shift.

We just opened our doors to our finest, newest and biggest Site. Come work with us and experience what State Of The Art really means. Our advanced training and learning center will keep you up to speed with the right knowledge to keep you ahead of everyone else. Of course there are break rooms and shower rooms to keep you recharged. We're currently seeking Customer Service Representatives for our new project. To be part of our growth give us a call at 5529751-55 Mondays to Fridays from 10am to 6pm. You may also send us your resume at OPSjobs@ph.teletech.com. What are you waiting for? Join us now and be a part of our fast growing team!

www.teletech.com

We are expanding and sky's the limit. Our clients are multiplying and we're still ahead of the game.

We are in need of young, dynamic and assertive individuals who will help us stay ahead of the game!



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A project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and implemented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), is in search of qualified candidates for the following consultancy positions:

1. Climate Change Specialist
2. Biodiversity Specialist
3. Land Degradation Specialist

I. DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT
The duration of the services for each of the abovementioned consultant shall be eighteen (18) months.

II. SCOPE OF WORK
Each consultant shall:
1. Advise on specific issues within each thematic area, as detailed in individual terms of reference.
2. Produce reports and information in the required standard and format, and within the budget and deadlines.
3. Liaise closely with the Project Coordinator and UNDP on all activities.
4. Facilitate a participatory approach to the project, ensuring that all key stakeholders can be appropriately represented in the process.
5. Consult with key stakeholders (though appraisals, workshops and interviews) to develop a common agreed assessment and a plan for interventions as inputs to the thematic report.
6. Report and provide information on the above duties in a timely and appropriate fashion, in a format required by and agreed with the Project Coordinator.
7. Ensure all activities are delivered within agreed deadlines and budgets.
8. Work closely with the Project Coordinator, DENR and UNDP in the preparation of the document for submission.

Specific tasks will include:
1. Gathering and review of existing documents in respective thematic areas.
2. Formulate a draft prioritization criteria (to be approved by thematic committees or focal points and the PMB) and apply the approved prioritization criteria to determine what documents will be reviewed and incorporated into a thematic "stock-taking" report.
3. Draft the common methodology (to be reviewed and approved by the PMB) including the format for presenting the information. The methodology should include a particular focus on exploring cross-cutting and synergistic issues in the prioritized documents.
4. Review of relevant information following the approved common methodology.
5. Participate in programme meetings, workshops, focus group discussions, leading the discussion where we requested and necessary. Similarly, amending the study based on outputs/comments of meetings where appropriate.
6. Submit comprehensive thematic report to the appropriate thematic committees for review, comment or revision.
7. Respond to any query/comment of the committees, PMB, DENR and/or UNDP-related draft thematic reports.

III. QUALIFICATIONS
Experience
1. The candidate for each of the thematic posts (climate change, biodiversity and land degradation) must be knowledgeable and familiar with the provisions of the Philippine Agenda 21, related MEAs/Conventions/Protocols and the corresponding national plans, policies and programs in his or her thematic area, e.g. (i) UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol; (ii) Convention on Biological Diversity and (iii) UN Convention on Combating Desertification.
2. He/she must have at least five (5) years in natural resources or environmental management or a related field, with a degree in Natural Resources or Environment or other related field. Similarly, he/she must have at least five (5) years experience in his/her particular thematic area. A higher degree specializing in the same field or in the area of his/her thematic area would be an advantage.
3. Previous experience: (i) working with government agencies, NGOs and the private sector in the Philippines; (ii) working with projects that deal with the aforementioned conventions or environmental management; (iii) and with previous capacity assessment work would also be an advantage.

Skills and Experience
1. Written and oral communication skills including the capacity to relate to both the internal and external constituencies of the project.
2. Excellent evaluation and analysis skills.
3. Working knowledge of developmental and environmental issues within the Philippines, Asia-Pacific region and globally.
4. Experience in broad-based stakeholder consultation.
5. Knowledge of institutional and individual capability building issues.

Personal Attributes
1. Proven ability to work with teams
2. Ability to work independently and as a member of a team
3. Patience and tolerance for other perspectives
4. Capacity to work under pressure
5. Commitment to social justice, environment and development

IV. COORDINATION AND SUPPORT
For the duration of the project, the Specialists will directly coordinate with and report to the Project Coordinator for overall guidance. He/she shall also closely liaise with the respective thematic committees to ensure the effective and efficient progression of work and delivery of the outputs. His/her salary shall be drawn from the approved project funds.

4. Institutional/Stakeholder Analysis Specialist/Team Leader

I. DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT
The duration of the services of the consultant shall be eighteen (18) months

II. SCOPE OF WORK
As the Institutional Specialist, the consultant shall:
1. Design the in-depth capacity analysis process and methodology as well as plan of intervention in consultation with the DENR, the NCSA Steering Committee, thematic focal points and other key partners.
2. Design a stakeholder analysis process and develop consultation methodologies to be used during implementation of the project.
3. Identify critical stakeholder analysis process and assist in convening technical workshops with presentation from key institutions such as the SCBD, SCLR, IACCC, the Eco-governance initiative, the University of the Philippines and the Asian Institute of Management to assist in the effort and to validate the process and consultation methodologies.
4. Facilitate a participatory approach to the project, ensuring that all key stakeholders including the LGUs can be appropriately represented in the process.
5. Facilitate consultations/workshops and document proceedings.
6. Conduct trainings of partners on how to conduct participatory stakeholders, workshop including conflict resolution.
7. Produce reports and information in the required standard and format, within budget and deadlines.
8. Liaise closely with the thematic focal agencies and the UNDP on all activities.
9. Analyze the cross-cutting issues and potential synergies across and between the thematic areas.
10. Incorporate/integrate the thematic reports into a final, comprehensive "stock-taking" report.
11. Facilitate/assist in the development of a capacity-building project framework and design-based on the results of the assessment.

As the TA Team Leader, the consultant shall:
1. Supervise and coordinate the work of the three thematic experts in order to ensure the effective and efficient progression of work and delivery of outputs.
2. Consolidate thematic reports into a final, comprehensive "stock-taking" report.
3. Finalize the Stock-taking Consultation/Priority-Setting Report and in the process, define/enhance priority actions among measures outlined in the draft report and other inputs from the workshop, including the addition of national priorities and policies in the context of the WSSD.
4. Consolidate monthly outputs related to technical aspects of project components and their corresponding expected outputs.

III. QUALIFICATIONS
Educational Background
The candidate must have a degree in Natural Resources or Environment, Engineering, Law, Environmental Economics or similar field (post graduate qualification is an advantage).

Skills and Experience
1. Knowledgeable and familiar with the provisions of the: (i) UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol; (ii) Convention on Biological Diversity; (iii) UN Convention on Combating Desertification; (iv) Philippine Agenda 21; (v) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan; (vi) Country Programme on Climate Change and other related country programs and plans.
2. Familiar with national and local decision-making processes (planning, budgeting and programming).
3. Has at least 10 years working experience on participatory, bottom-up planning processes, consensus building and ENR policy formulation and project implementation.
4. Knowledgeable and has experience on participatory, bottom-up planning processes, consensus building and ENR policy formulation and project implementation.
5. Has experience and skills on project management, design and development.
6. Has experience and skills on the design and execution of training programs.
7. Has experience on working with government agencies, NGOs and the private sector in the Philippines.
8. Has knowledge of institutional and individual capability building issues and experienced and skilled in institutional/capacity assessment and development.
9. Has excellent written and oral communication skills including the capacity to relate to both the internal and external constituencies of the project.
10. Has the capacity to link micro field based project work with broader macro public policy issues.
11. Has full understanding of community, regional and global conservation and development issues and their inter-relationships.
12. Computer literate

Personal Attributes
1. Has proven ability to work with and lead teams of people
2. Has ability to work independently
3. Patient and tolerant of others' perspectives
4. Has capacity to work under pressure
5. Committed to social justice, environment and development

IV. COORDINATION AND SUPPORT
For the duration of the project, the Institutional Specialist/Team Leader will directly coordinate with and report to the Project Director for overall guidance.

All application letters and comprehensive resumes should reach our office on or before 27 February 2004. Address applications to the Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Building, 106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City (via courier) or P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail), tel. nos. 892-0611 to 25 loc. 386/275, fax nos. 816 4061/893 9598, email address: bc_admin.ph@undp.org.

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.
This advertisement shall remain posted in www.undp.org.ph until February 27, 2004.

KMBI

A Christian Development Organization engaged in Microfinance and Business Development Services (BDS) and considered as one of the leading Microfinance providers in the Philippines is urgently in need of the following staff who wants to join our dynamic team to do extraordinary work for the urban poor communities this year 2004.

TRANSFORMATION/BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES MANAGER
Male/Female not more than 38 years of age
Graduate of Behavioral Science or Theology in a reputable university
With 2-3 years related experience in Corporate or in Christian Church setting
Able to develop and implement business development intervention for the micro-scale level
Has capacity to do training modules
A dynamic facilitator
Willing to work anywhere in the Philippines
Team player and with strong personal values

HUMAN RESOURCE – ADMIN OFFICER
Male/Female, single, not more than 35 years of age
Graduate of Psychology or any Business course
With at least 5 years related experience
Knowledgeable in Salary and Benefits Administration, Recruitment, Employee Relations and other facets of HR
Willing to work anywhere in the Philippines
Team player and with strong personal values

DRIVER/UTILITY
Male not more than 30 years of age
At least College level
With 5-8 years of driving experience
Familiar in Metro Manila, Antipolo and Bulacan areas
Team player and with strong personal values

AUDIT HEAD
Male/Female not more than 38 years of age
With 3-5 years senior audit experience
Adept in operational and administrative audit
Willing to work anywhere in Luzon and in Mindanao areas
Team player and with strong personal values

ADMIN. ASSOCIATE
Male/Female not more than 35 years of age
Graduate of any Business Course in a reputable university
With relevant experience in Administrative services such as documentation, procurement and purchasing, transport and communication, property building maintenance and insurance, management and valuation of company assets
Team player and with strong personal values

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE
Male/Female not more than 30 years of age
Graduate of Social Science or any Business course
With at least 3-5 years related experience
Proficient in doing business proposals, write-ups, feasibility study of certain project, quarterly and annual reports and market research
Willing to work anywhere in Luzon and in Mindanao areas
Team player and with strong personal values

Interested applicants may personally send their resumé and transcript of records to #12 San Francisco St., Karuhatan, Valenzuela City, Tel. Nos. 291-1484 to 86, fax No. 292-2441 or e-mail at kmbi@skyinet.net
Look for Mr. Arthur N. Gonzaga

Successful candidates await above minimum monthly rate with 1-Million accident insurance, health benefits, monthly Rice subsidy, incentives and a chance to travel locally or international.

ZTE中兴

ZTE Corporation is China's largest listed telecom equipment provider offering total network solutions for telecom operators worldwide. The company develops and manufactures telecom equipment for wireless, data, optical and next generation networks —— If you value a challenging career in a fast growing telecom company that provides very attractive compensation, comprehensive training, & opportunity for travel, we invite you to join our team as:

(15) SENIOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT ENGINEER

- To support the pre-sales telecom product marketing activities in trade shows, conferences, and product demos worldwide;
- To work with regional sales teams, interface with customers, understand their requirements & design total solutions.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS

- Strong interpersonal skills, self-motivated, & a good team player
- Excellent communication/presentation skills (Written/Oral English)
- Ready for global travel; can work and deliver under pressure
- In-depth knowledge of telecom industry & network evolution trend
- BSEE/BSECE/BSCoE from a reputable institution
- 3-4 years product marketing experience in telecom industry

If the job detailed above interests you, please send your resumé with Senior Technical Support Engineer as the subject to e-mail add: **ZTEsingapore@zte.com.cn**

To know more about us please visit: www.zte.com.cn

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a TEAM that's only meant for WINNERS

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Invites you to be a
Sales Executive / Sales Manager

If you are:
- 22-45 years old
- a graduate of any 4 year course
- have excellent oral & written communication skills
- have established business networks
- ambitious, self-driven, have a competitive spirit & winning attitude
- available for immediate hiring

We offer career advancement, extensive trainings, CASH incentives & HIGH commission rates!

Send your comprehensive resume with transcript of records to:

HR DEPARTMENT:
G/F, Fortune Building
160 Legazpi Street,
Legaspi Village 1229
Makati City

or email your resume with colored photo to
admin@omni-orient.com.ph
Walk-in applicants will not be entertained.

A Market Leader in Packaging Needs:

Production Supervisor
- Male, below 30 years old, Engineering graduate
- At least 5 years supervisory experience & willing to work 12-hour shifts
- Experience in plastic packaging firm is an advantage

Maintenance Supervisor
- Graduate of Engineering, preferably Electrical Engineering or ME
- 5 years experience in manufacturing firm on same capacity
- Good leadership skill & willing to work 12-hour shifts

Logistics Assistant
- Male or Female, Graduate of a reputable university
- Previous experience in delivery & scheduling an advantage
- Experience in dealing with shipping lines
- Mature and can work with minimum supervision

Marketing Secretary
- Female, Graduate of a reputable university
- Minimum 3 years secretarial or administrative experience, preferably in sales
- ***Will be promoted to Sales Executive & receive the following benefits:***
  - ***High salary + Commissions***
  - ***Car Plan + Travel Opportunities***

Send/E-mail (mlbenedicto@unibag.com.ph) complete resumé with latest 2x2 photo to:
P.O. Box 4137 Manila (Attn: Finance & Admin. Manager)

"Would you like this to be your story...?"

I admit, I was hesitant to apply. The pay was too good to be true.

They trained me to become a very successful **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER** and supported me all the way. Now I've really changed the way I think about selling...

Sure my friend laughed when I told them I'm on commission.. but when they saw my first check, that laugh turned to envy because they also want to do what I was doing...
I said: "Sorry guys... only one full-time position is available at this time..."

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Call: +632-4269240
Your call will be entertained
Mondays to Wednesdays
from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. only

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UV Helper
- Experience in operating UV Machine
- College level

UV Coater/Sheeter Operator
- Experience in UV Coater and sheeter operation
- Team player
- College level

Assistant Printer
- Preferably 2 years experience sheet fed operation
- Fast learner
- College level

Guillotine Technician
- Experience in polar cutter operation
- Fast learner

Folding M/C Technician
- Engineering background
- Previous experience on operator of STAHL folding preferred
- Analytical/fast learner
- Team player

Saddle Stitcher Technician
- Preferably engineering background
- Analytical/fast learner
- Team player

Commercial Printing Sales/ Account Executive
- Graduate of any business course from reputable school
- With 2 or more years experience in multi-color commercial print sales.
- An entrepreneurial spirit with five figure income expectations is highly desirable
- Must be able to present well in business-to-business situations along with the prospecting and lead development skills.
- Candidates should have strong written and oral communication skills.
- Must be proactive individual.

Bindery
- Mechanical eng'g/EE/ECE graduates (not licensed)
- Male/Female
- Willing to work in industrial environment

PRODUCTION PLANNING MANAGER
- Chemical Engineering graduate with MBA or MBA units
- Male/Female at least 30 years old
- With good communication and interpersonal skills
- Total work experience should be 7 years with 2-3 years of which is in a supervisory position
- Experience in production operation, material and production planning, quality control, safety, sanitation, fire protection, and environmental protection is a must
- Technical knowledge and experience in ink manufacturing is preferred
- Exposure in formulating manufacturing policies, programs and standards, product costing/pricing, sourcing and maintenance of raw material stocks, analysis and evaluation of plant operations, its variances from standard/targets and institution of corrective measures is an advantage.

Press Operator
- Male/Female
- Previous experience preferred
- College level preferred

Warehouseman
- Male
- High School graduate or college level
- With at least 2 years experience in handling inventories/ warehouse
- Can drive (with driver's license) and at least can operate forklift
- Can work independently and hardworking

ACCOUNTING ANALYST
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree or Professional License (Passed Board/Bar/Professional License Exam) in Finance/Accountancy/ Banking or equivalent.
- must be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- Required skill(s): word, excel, power point.
- At least 2 year(s) of working experience in the related field is required for this position.
- Applicants must be willing to work in Mamplasan Laguna (shuttle service available).
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status.
- Preferably 1-4 yrs experienced employees specializing in Finance - General/Cost Accounting or equivalent.
- Full-Time positions available.

Advertising Assistant
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Mass Communications, Journalism, Marketing, Advertising/Media or equivalent.
- Female between 20-25 years old
- Pleasing Personality.
- Must know how to write simple letters.
- Must know how to answer simple inquiries.
- Must be able to communicate well with other departments and clients.
- Must be able to make written and numbered reports.
- Systematic and organized with her work load.
- Required skill(s): MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint.
- At least 1 year(s) of working experience in the related field is required for this position.
- Applicants must be willing to work in Makati.
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status.
- Preferably 1-4 yrs experienced employees specializing in Advertising Client Servicing/ or equivalent.
- Full-Time positions available.

Junior Mechanical Technician
- Candidate must possess at least a Vocational Diploma / or at least 2nd year college
- Experience in mechanical work or any related function
- Can Interpret mechanical/electrical diagram
- Knowledge in mechanical installment
- Experience in maintenance facilities including: gen-set, compressor, greasing paints
- Analytical, Resourceful and flexible
- Willing to work on shifting schedule
- Computer Literate
- At least 2 year(s) of working experience in the related field is required for this position.
- Applicants must be willing to work in -Mamplasan Laguna.
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status.
- Preferably 1-4 yrs experienced employees specializing in Engineering - Mechanical or equivalent.

Applicants for all position must be willing to be assigned in Mamplasan, Laguna (shuttle service available) Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.

Qualified applicants are requested to submit a comprehensive resumé, recent 2x2 picture and a photocopy of Transcript of Records.

FEP Printing Corporation
Loule R. Prieto Press Building
Mascardo Street near corner Pasong Tamo, Makati City
Or Email aoasan@fep.ph/rbalingit@fep.ph

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We need extraordinary people to help us meet fresh challenges as we continue to grow as a leader in the distribution of high-value imported food products. If you think you are a cut above the rest, you belong with us.

FOOD SERVICE MANAGER

The position is responsible for achieving overall performance objectives for the Department, whose coverage includes hotels, restaurants, and other institutional accounts. The position reports directly to the President.

Candidate must be an aggressive sales person who can effectively lead an entire department in the pursuit of business goals. To do this he/she must have an extensive experience in direct selling and in positively leading people. Having a vast network in the same industry would be a big plus. Good business acumen, tenacity, flexibility, and high computer literacy are competencies that would spell success in the post.

SALES SUPERVISOR – NORTH LUZON
The position is responsible for the effective implementation of marketing strategies in his assigned area of coverage in order to achieve overall sales targets.

Qualifications:
Graduate of any business course from university
With at least 3 years experience in sales and/or marketing, preferably in the food industry and with broad exposure in budgeting, forecasting and business planning
Extensive network in retail, hotel and restaurant industry
Should be a resident of Tarlac or nearby municipalities.

QUALITY ASSURANCE ASSISTANT
To provide support to the company's efforts on documentation and re-engineering of operational procedures as well as in the maintenance of a quality system in the organization

Qualifications:
Graduate of any business course, with well hone skills in documentation, organization, and communication
With at least two years of experience in quality systems and re-engineering in a consumer industry. Exposure to ISO, internal quality audit, process and failure analyses are an advantage
With above-average computer skills (Microsoft Access, Visual Basic)

INDUSTRIAL SALES ASSOCIATE
Basic Function: To assist the organization in the pursuit of sales targets in the area of raw materials for food ingredients, in the promotion of new lines, and in building and maintaining good relationships with both customers and suppliers.

Qualifications:
Female, graduate of Food Technology or any related course
With at least 2 years sales experience in food manufacturing or the pharmaceutical sector

KEY ACCOUNTS SPECIALIST/ SALES SUPERVISOR
The position will be responsible for formulating and implementing plans for Key Corporate Accounts with respect to sales, product endorsements, and client relations to achieve assigned sales target

Qualifications:
Graduate of four year course preferably in business or economics
With at least 3 years experience in sales and/or marketing, preferably in the food industry and with broad exposure in budgeting, forecasting and business planning
With extensive network in hotel and restaurant industry

INFO MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST
The position would be assigned to gather, consolidate, and present in logical format all relevant information that would aid management in making important business decisions. She is expected to recommend actions that would improve efficiencies, increase productivity and overall performance of the Sales Department. She reports directly to the National Sales Manager

Qualifications:
Preferably female who is a graduate of a business course in Math, Statistics, or Business Management
With at least 3 years work experience as an Analyst or Statistician dealing with sales figures. Supervisory experience is preferred.
With above average mental ability and computer know-how. Good coordination and people skills would be a plus.

Interested applicants may send their application letters, along with pertinent papers to the following address:
ScanAsia Overseas Inc.
3rd floor Molave Bldg., 2231 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City
Or you may also send your application letters via email at hrd@scanasia.ph

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We are one of the top performing foreign banks in the Philippines and we are currently looking for

SALES OFFICERS

who will be responsible for generating accounts for the Bank and expanding relationships within the target market and the defined trading area

We are inviting candidates who possess the following qualifications:

- Graduate of a 4-year business course from a reputable University / College
- Male or Female, 26-35 years old
- With at least 2 years experience in Product or Sales Marketing as Junior Officer
- Product and Industry knowledge skills
- Organized and with strong time management skills
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Self-driven, assertive and goal-oriented

Kindly email your curriculum vitae with 2x2 photo to

bestofbreed@globequest.com.ph

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ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
- 22-28 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course preferably computer related
- Aggressive, hardworking and with pleasing personality
- At least one (1) year experience in Sales

SALES TRAINEES
- 20-25 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course preferably computer related
- Aggressive, hardworking & with pleasing personality
- With or without experience in Sales

TECHNICAL STAFFS
- 20-28 years old
- Graduate of a 4-year computer course preferably ECE or Computer Engineering
- Hardworking and with pleasing personality

Qualified applicants may call 578-9110 / 578-2458 or bring their resumé at 106 P. Cruz St., Mandaluyong City

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FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!

We are looking for this following positions:

- **Bookkeeper** (Female)
  - With experience in reporting B.I.R.
  - Good in communication skills both oral and written
- **Sales Assistant**
  - With experience in dealing with **ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

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Multiskilled professional seeks to cultivate nationalism in employees

By Candy G. Villanueva

HR Focus

'We decided that if we cannot control the rest of the country, maybe we can work on this company'

A WRITER, an administration head, an HR head and a nationalist all rolled into one. That is Reyna Carrillo. Carillo wears three hats for Magsaysay Maritime Corporation as Head of HR Management, Head of Corporate Communications and Head ofAdministration. Magsaysay Maritime Corporation is a manpower provider for ships and is slowly branching into total HR services by training and developing seafarers and taking care of their careers and families.

Carillo has spent more than two decades of service for Masaysay Maritime Corporation. At her golden age, which she is proud of, Carillo is still at it like it was her first job. Like a fresh graduate, she looks at her career with gusto and enthusiasm that employees of Magsaysay Maritime Corporation find infectious.

Shift to writing

In the early 70's, when the country was in turmoil and on the brink of Martial Law, young Carillo was working on her Business Administration Degree in U.P. Diliman. Math, her waterloo as she would call it, pointed her to the path which led her to where she in now. Because Algebra was not her forte, she shifted to getting an English degree. It was timely because her mother, fearing she would turn into an activist at such unsettling times, moved her to Centro Escolar University. It was at CEU where she discovered she could make writing her business.

After earning her English degree at CEU, she quickly placed pen to paper and wrote for a film distributor as a copywriter. After six months, she shifted from writing press releases and slogans to memos and corporate documents for a pharmaceutical company as a secretary.

Second home

Carillo soon tired of taking dictation from her boss and joined the company that would be her second home for twenty years and counting. Joining Magsaysay Maritime Corporation in 1980, Carillo came at a very exciting time. From a shipping company, Carillo helped the 55-year-old organization grow into a manpower provider for ships.

"I enjoyed my job very much because I came at a very exciting time because this company is growing," remembers Carillo. "I entered at a stage of growth."

Carillo loves being at the helm of what steers this large organization of 400 employees. "Here in Magsaysay, I know that our department is a strategic partner of the business, of the operations people. We're there to help them get their plans together and since we are there from the start, we know exactly what support to give them." Energetic, Carrillo values being in the forefront and having a hand in the development of the business. "Although you are not in the background, you're in the forefront without necessarily being in the frontline."

Aligning goals

And how does one find an organization to fit in and stay for more than 20 years? "Know whom you serve. Know who your master is and the standards your master has," advises Carillo. "Know your mission. You got to be sure of that. From there, the kind of master and mission you have will sort of dictate how you're going to act each day of your life."

Fortunately, Carillo's mission is the mission of the company. Her sense of purpose jived with her boss' beliefs. "At this point, at my age, it is no longer about making ends meet or making a name and saying I am successful. It is no longer about having children and seeing them grow up. It's already about making a difference in this country," says the 53 year-old-mother of three grown children. Carillo came in right about the time when her boss, Doris Magsaysay-Ho, president of the company, was starting on growing the business.

REYNA Carrillo of Magsaysay Maritime Corporation CANDY G. VILLANUEVA/CONTRIBUTOR

Both Carillo and the company carry a deep sense of nationalism. She relates how her boss inspired the employees to make a difference in the country through Magsaysay. Carillo remembers her boss saying, "If our politicians and government aren't going to do anything, lets just do it here in the company." "We decided that if we cannot control the rest of the country maybe we can work on this company," says Carillo. By doing so, Magsaysay hopes to create a ripple effect and contribute to a better change in the country. Carillo believes that by starting with ourselves, we begin the process of changing our society for a better life.

Looking back, Carillo claims her life was a series of changes. And according to her, life is all about change. She says, "I tell people that it is okay to transform. It's great; it's painful. You will leave your comfortable zone but if it is necessary, embrace it and it will be quite exciting."

Who knows where the tide and the change of wind will take this dynamic soul next? But she doesn't look too far beyond the horizon. She wisely shares that life should be viewed on a day-to-day basis. "If you think of a grand design, sometimes you'll get impatient. You get frustrated when nothing is happening. But if you look at it from day to day, one step at a time, you will make each day perfect, tomorrow will take care of itself."

PROGRAMME ASSISTANT FOR PROGRAMME COORDINATION AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

UNDP

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is in need of a Programme Assistant-Programme Coordination and Policy Development, who will review performance analyses of the CCF/SRF in terms of substantive delivery of portfolio outcomes and outputs, and draft periodic performance reports and other documentation capturing strategic results, critical implementation challenges and issues, and emerging lessons and best practices; undertake preliminary researches to identify scope for policy advisory services; network with partners in advocacy and collaborative work in flagship initiatives such as the Philippines Human Development Report and MDG-related studies; assist in organizing learning/capacity building activities for Programme staff in developing competency in key knowledge areas; develop and support the office knowledge management system.

Major Duties and Responsibilities:

A. PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

1. Monitor the updating of performance reporting by portfolio units and compliance with RBM guidelines.
2. Conduct preliminary review of performance reports of portfolios and draft preliminary analyses of strategic results and critical challenges to capacity building strategies of UNDP, partnerships, and emerging lessons and best practices.
3. Organize the conduct of internal assessments annually, at mid-term, and at end-cycle towards an overall evaluation of UNDP's contributions to capacity development.
4. Organize outcome evaluations and programme strategic audit as may be decided by the office.
5. Promote process documentation practices.

B. POLICY SUPPORT

1. In coordination with the portfolios, produce quarterly policy reviews/updates based on information gathered on research agenda of key policy institutes (academe, NGOs, donors, and government to determine areas of complementation with UNDP's areas of policy engagement.
2. In coordination with the portfolios, produce quarterly policy directions scan report based on key development information (news articles, government inter-agency agenda policy discussions, legislative agenda) to determine emerging challenges and issues for potential study that can be supported by UNDP.

C. DEVELOPMENT OF KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

1. Acts as liaison on operational matters between UNDP and the Philippines Human Development Network and other partners for joint initiatives in support of advocacy of sustainable human development (SHD), particularly the preparation of the Philippines HDR and other associated products, and the conduct of policy dialogues/forums.
2. Prepare draft terms of reference for conduct of MDG-related studies that UNDP can support.
3. Provide technical backstopping to inter-country programmes that may be assigned to the Programme Coordinator.

D. INTERNAL PROGRAMME CAPACITY BUILDING

1. Assist the PC and Office Committees in organizing learning events and training for Programme staff to enhance capacities in core competencies such as mainstreaming gender and human rights, early warning and conflict prevention analytical skills, sustainable human development concepts, participatory development methods, etc.
2. Monitoring effectiveness of capacity development as may be captured in the evaluation of portfolio performance (MYFF report, ROAR, and strategic programme audit).
3. Develop and maintain a system to support effective organizational learning from programme experiences and evaluations.
4. Develop and maintain a system for monitoring the level of knowledge networking and resourcing in the Programme Division.
5. In close coordination with the Communications Officer, develop and support the systematic record, collection, and access of knowledge products generated by the country office and its portfolios.
6. Maintain close coordination with portfolios in capturing learning experiences for the organization through annual performance reviews, Portfolio Steering Committee meetings, etc.

E. ADMINISTRATIVE and MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

1. Provide administrative and management support in implementing contracts and agreements to implement initiatives undertaken under the Programme Coordinator, including regular monitoring and follow-through.
2. Maintain records of meetings/ discussions organized by or with the Programme Coordinator.
3. Perform other tasks to support the Programme Coordinator as may be required.

Job Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree, preferably in Public Administration, Development Management, Economics, Social Sciences and other related fields; Master's degree or Masteral units preferable
- At least four (4) years substantive experience in programme/project development and management with actual work on design and operation of monitoring and evaluation systems and performance analyses
- Familiarity with or exposure to a variety of development organizations including government agencies, donors, NGOs and POs, and academe
- Computer literacy (windows-based programme applications) especially database applications
- Good command of English, both written and oral; ability to write and verbally articulate, clearly concisely

The selected candidate will receive a salary depending on his/her background and work experience.

Applicants are requested to complete the UN Personal History Form (P.11), available in our website www.undp.org.ph/jobs/ and send to:

Personnel Unit
United Nations Development Programme
7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Bldg.
106 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village
Makati City

Indicating the Vacancy No. and Post Title on or before 27 FEBRUARY 2004. Kindly note that only completed P11 forms will be reviewed.

UNDP is an equal opportunity employer and invites Filipino nationals to apply for the post.

Please note that we will contact only the short-listed candidates.

TeleTech Philippines announces large scale hiring

MANILA, Philippines, February 6, 2004 – TeleTech Holdings, Inc., a global provider of customer solutions, today announced additional hiring in its Philippines locations, with further employment ,opportunities planned throughout 2004. The new positions are a direct result of the ramp-up of several large, multinational contracts.

TeleTech expects to hire approximately 2,000 additional customer service representatives (CSRs) during 2004 for customer management centers (CMCs) throughout the Philippines, including the newest location in Pasay City. CSRs will be responsible for serving clients requiring lifecycle customer management, help desk services, technical support, sales and back-office processing. The CMCs support multichannel communications that include voice, email and Web chat.

"TeleTech continues to grow facilities in the Philippines as part of its overall global expansion and proven dedication to customer satisfaction," said Craig Reines, TeleTech's vice president and general manager of the Philippines. "Our newest CMC continues to expand in large part because of the outstanding performance of our employees and the quality of service they deliver to our clients. Amid continued growth of our global operations, TeleTech remains committed to developing our local workforce, communities and families."

TeleTech is looking for career-oriented individuals who are highly motivated to satisfy customer needs. These positions require computer literacy and strong conversational English. Additionally, TeleTech offers competitive pay and benefits, advancement opportunities, training, and leadership development programs while encouraging personal growth through local university education, community activities and volunteerism.

To apply, please call 5529751-55 Mondays thru Fridays, from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Hotel PONTEFINO BATANGAS CITY

We are a new breed of hotel in Batangas City.

Passionate about leaving a good legacy? Join our empowered teams whose way of life is to give excellent service. We have career opportunities for the following positions:

SPA THERAPIST
- With a degree in Nursing, Physical Therapy, or Midwifery. License an advantage but not required
- Female; with minimum height of 5'6"; between 21-27 years old
- With pleasing personality; highly trainable

SHIFT ENGINEER
- Licensed Electrical and/or Mechanical Engineer
- With at least 4 years relevant experience as a supervisor, preferably in a hotel setting
- Has working knowledge of PABX system, and building maintenance

ASSISTANT F & B MANAGER
- Capable of handling banquet planning and operations
- Has a minimum of three years experience in a multi-operational type of establishment, preferably in the hospitality or service industry
- With good training skills; knowledgeable in handling F & B administrative functions

RESTAURANT SUPERVISOR
- With a minimum of two years experience in fine dining and restaurant operations
- Male/Female; not more than 30 years old; with pleasing personality
- With training skills; can manage a shift

SALES EXECUTIVES
- With a marketing or business-related degree
- Has hotel sales experience; loves field work; with established network of clients
- Eloquent; highly personable; preferably female

FOOD ATTENDANTS/BAR HELPERS
CASHIERS/RECEPTIONISTS
(Full-time/Week Enders/Par-time)
- With at least one year relevant experience, preferably in a restaurant or hotel setting. Fresh graduates of HRM course are welcome to apply
- Not more than 28 years old; at least 5'4" (female)/ 5'6" (male) tall
- With pleasing personality and good communication skills

All positions are Batangas-based.

Interested applicants can bring or send their resumé (with ID picture) and application letter to:

Human Resources Department
Hotel Pontefino
Brgy. Guiod Labac, Batangas City
or
HR Management Group
24th Flr., IBM Plaza, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City
(visit our website at http://www.pontefino.com.ph)

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Copy Editor

To be part of a team editing and writing news and product reports, and putting together the print, CD-ROM and online versions of a high-tech trade magazine. You should be a degree holder, preferably in English/Journalism/ Communications. You must have excellent spoken and written English language skills and be computer literate with knowledge of the Internet. Candidates with exposure to international trade and 1-2 years editorial/ writing experience in electronics/computer industry would be at an advantage.

A competitive remuneration package and a truly challenging, international and dynamic work environment awaits the right candidate. Interested parties should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

Corporate Human Resources
online: career.globalsources.com
e-mail: gshr@globalsources.com
fax: (632) 892-4087
post: P.O. Box 4597, MCPO, Makati City

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www.globalsources.com

SYKES™

JPMorganChase

With over 16,000 employees worldwide, Sykes is a leader in the provision of global outsourced call center services. Our locations span 23 countries and 5 continents. This, along with our class leading technology, positions Sykes as a genuine global player in this industry. Pivotal to Sykes' global operations is its presence in Asia, specifically our 5 call centers and 5,500 employees in the Philippines. Since 1997 we have been both the leader and an officially recognized pioneer of the industry in the country.

Our client portfolio in the Philippines is a reflection of our success, a list made up of industry leaders and world class operators in their own industries. One of which, JP MorganChase, is expanding its services with Sykes and as a consequence we seek a high caliber individual to be the primary business owner for this client:

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Duties and responsibilities include:
- Manage all aspects of Sykes' Makati-based call center operations for JPMorganChase
- Manage all communication between both Sykes and JPMorganChase in the USA
- Initiate and develop strategic and operational plans to facilitate continuous performance improvement for JPMorganChase
- Responsible for the Management Development Program of JPMorganChase Account in Manila
- Full budgetary responsibilities for Sykes JPMorganChase Account in Manila

Qualifications and attributes:
- Dynamic, creative, analytical and proactive: This position will be empowered to drive changes and continually seek excellence
- At least 5 years working experience for an international company, preferably, though not specifically, in the financial sector
- Proven track-record in a supervisory management role
- Reflective of the client and type of business, willingness to travel to the USA is essential
- Communication: must be able to communicate effectively at team level but also at a very senior client level

Benefits
- As befits a position of this level and importance, an attractive compensation and benefits package will be offered

We believe that this position offers an outstanding opportunity for the right individual to experience working for one of the most dynamic and fast growing companies in the Philippines, while working hand-in-hand with one of the world's most illustrious and successful financial services companies. Should you wish to be considered for this position, please send your details to **Human Resources Department, JPMC Position, 28th Floor Robinsons Summit Center, 6783 Ayala Avenue, Makati**, or e-mail to **jpmc_position@man.ph.sykes.com**.

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- Successful sales experience is a MUST
- Hardworking and determined to excel under minimum supervision
- Willing to work on 2-week rotating shifts (6am to 2:30pm; 10pm to 6:30am)

A very competitive salary, incentives and bonuses commensurate to performance await qualified applicants.

Apply personally with resume at:
11th Floor Unit A/B, Strata 2000, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
or
email: abby.icasiano@focuscarecorp.com

Our company which is engaged in the Project Development and Engineering Services is in urgent need of the following for its expansion projects:

ENGINEERS (Senior/Junior – Civil/Structural, Mechanical, Electrical, Architectural, Geodetic, Sanitary, ECE)

DETAILERS (Civil/Structural / Mechanical / Electrical / Sanitary)

Qualifications:

- *Male/Female*
- *Licensed Engineer*
- *Highly computer literate and proficient in AUTOCAD/STAAD (for Structural Engineers)*
- *Extensive Experience in Design of Industrial Plant and Site Development works, preferably from Architectural / Engineering firms or large construction companies*
- *Knowledgeable in application of codes and standards*

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé and current 2x2 picture at:

P.O. Box No. 14260, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT
Bids & Awards Committee

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

COMMUNITY FINANCIAL ANALYST
KALAHI-CIDSS PROJECT

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services Project (KALAHI-CIDSS), and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payment of professional services under this Contract.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development which is the lead implementing agency for this flagship project of the government in fighting poverty now invites Individual Proponents for the hiring of

Three (3) Community Financial Analysts

The Consultants will report directly to the National Financial Analyst and should meet the following qualifications:

- Certified Public Accountant
- With at least two (2) years experience in financial management (supervisory level)
- Hardworking, highly analytical and strong interpersonal skills
- Able to work under minimum supervision
- Self-motivated and able to prioritize work to meet deadlines
- Knowledgeable in computer operations
- Proficient in oral and written communication.

Interested Applicants may submit their Application Letters and Comprehensive Resumé to the Bids & Awards Committee Secretariat at 2nd Floor, DSWD, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with telephone numbers: 951-7116 until March 1, 2004 at 5:00 p.m.

(Sgd.) **RHODA F. YAP**
Assistant Secretary and Chairperson
Bids & Awards Committee

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST

An international organization has an immediate need for a DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST who will be responsible for the design, implementation and evaluation of a wide range of activities in the areas of energy and environment. The activities include reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; the use of clean fuels such as natural gas and renewable energy; power industry restructuring and privatization; increasing efficiencies in power generation, transmission and end use; capacity building of Philippine Government agencies responsible for carrying out the policy reform; maintaining and expanding forest cover to serve as carbon sinks; reduction of air pollution from the transportation sector; and, accelerating the development of renewable energy for rural electrification in remote areas. The incumbent of this position will be involved and will have primary responsibility in the conception, design, development, negotiation and implementation of high visibility and complex programs and projects in the energy/environment sector. As a recognized expert in his/her field, he/she will serve as liaison between the organization's officials and high-level personnel of the Philippine Government, of other donors and of private sector. He/She will provide substantive advice and support in the formulation and administration of the organization's over-all development program in the Philippines, with a specific focus on energy/environment. He/She will be responsible for leading the analysis of energy sector policies, encouraging broad participation in reviewing draft policies, and strengthening institutional capability to implement new policies in the energy sector. Minimum educational requirement is completion of a Bachelor's degree relevant to development assistance such as but not limited to public or business administration, economics, social or physical science, management or education. Completion of post-graduate degree (MPA, MA or MBA) is highly desirable. 's degree relevant to development assistance such as but not limited to public or business administration, economics, social or physical science, management or education. Completion of post-graduate degree (MPA, MA or MBA) is highly desirable. From six (6) to eight (8) years of progressively responsible, professional level experience is expected with at least five (5) years of which should have been in development assistance or related work in reforming policies and building institutional capability in the energy or transportation sectors. Excellent command of English (both written and oral), computer skills, and ability to develop and deliver professional quality reports and presentations are essential.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan are offered.

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resume, **not later than February 20, 2004**, to :

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL
Vivre debout

We are in need of a **PROJECT MANAGER for Cagayan de Oro** who will be responsible for the implementation and follow-up of the activities on the construction, operation and management of a wheelchair production center.

His/her duties and responsibilities will be to:
- Deal and follow-up with contractors
- Make budget follow-ups and reports to funding agencies
- Manage a team of 25 personnel
- Work with the different partners in the project
- Assure the financial sustainability of the project
- Develop and deliver timely and quality reports

Qualifications:
- Minimum 5 years experience as a Project Manager on development projects supported by funding agencies, with relevant experience in NGOs
- Capable of making initiatives and decisions
- Possesses keen skills in assessment and analysis
- Knows how to manage a budget, particularly with cost-sharing

THIS POSITION IS FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Please send your application letter* and résumé and/or CV through fax or e-mail to:

HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL
E-mail: hiphil03@yahoo.com Fax No.: (02) 817-0147
(*State reason why you are interested to apply)

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JOBMarket

Two poor men

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

THERE are two workers, both poor. Both blessed? Because, as Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor?"

Mang Berto has five children; his wife gets a regular income sewing garments for a small supplier, while he just takes odd jobs at construction sites. When he's not working outside, he's what we Pinoys like to call "houseband"—he takes charge of the household, cooking, cleaning, preparing the children's *baon* (lunchbox), and supervising the two oldest (teenaged) children's washing and ironing. Theirs seems to be a happy family.

Mang Ropy, on the other hand, "works" like a freelancer on a flexitime basis: whenever the need or the opportunity arises, he pushes shabu. Most of the time, he stays home watching TV during the day; most nights he's at the corner store with his drinking buddies. His wife peddles cigarettes, chewing gum and menthol candies at the marketplace. The couple look like life is such a burden, even though their three children are already off on their own.

Both Mang Berto and Mang Ropy belong to the lower class, both live in squatter areas visited by government officials only during election season, but how come one seems to be "blessed poor" while the other, "wretched poor?" Is it because one fears God while the other doesn't?

When you are poor, having nothing and no one, yet in faith you reach up to God and love and obey Him as a king, you become blessed. Immeasurably blessed. (*E-mail the author at* avemaria@csi.com.ph)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Luke 6:17, 20-26

'Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours.'

Let God

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB,DD

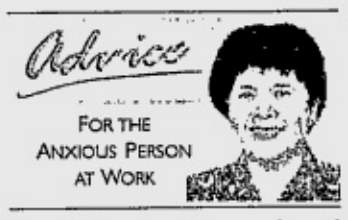
IF we were to look at the end of our years of work and toil, what would we want to have accomplished or gained? Perhaps, many would dream to have saved a sufficient amount of money, which could assure them of a comfortable retirement. Others might wish to have acquired great assets, which could provide the whole family with ease and security throughout life. While everyone who has worked hard for years would reasonably save sufficient provisions for the rest of one's life, an elderly woman I met years ago gave up her life savings and gained security through her total faith and trust in God.

I was then the Pastor of a parish in Cebu City, when this woman came to my office and told me she was giving a donation to the church. Then, she handed over to me a bank book with P143,000 deposited in it, which she said was all the money she saved through her work of raising livestock and keeping a small store in the market. I did not want to accept the donation because I felt that she would need the money herself. She insisted, saying, "It has been my lifelong desire to give all that I have to God." When I asked who would take care of her should I accept her donation, she simply stated with a confident smile in her face, "*Ang Ginoo nay bahala nako*" (The Lord will take care of me). I could hardly believe what I heard and saw in that encounter!

I will always remember that poor and hardworking elderly woman who, in choosing to be poor, wonderfully incarnated the words of Jesus in today's gospel, "Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours! " (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

Jobseeker with speech disability seeks advice

By Tita Datu Puangco



I HOPE you can help me. I have a speech disability. Though people around me say I speak quite clearly. But this still hinders me from applying for a job. The phrase "with excellent communication skills," attached to the job description in ads really bother me. What does this mean?

Please also advise us people with speech problems on how we could bag a job. I'm currently employed as a data encoder (luckily, there are still considerate people) but only on a contractual basis. My contract is about to end and there is no assurance that it will be extended or renewed. Right now, I'm scanning the ads. But still I don't have enough confidence to apply. I feel they would somehow not hire me. What should I do?

I'm quite realistic with my job prospects. I usually target administrative jobs. I shun those jobs where communication skills are needed. But I found out communication is inevitable. There are no jobs that don't involve communication.

Worried Person

You mentioned you have a speech disability but you can be understood when you speak. I suggest you do something about it. Go to a speech therapist or to special schools where they teach voice and diction or oral communication. Or you can ask help from a friend or relative who will have the patience to teach you.

I know of a person who was born with a disability of the lip, who was in a similar situation. He underwent an operation to cure his physical defect. He had at first a speech disability. He decided to work on it, working hand in hand with a speech therapist. When he called me to consult about his enterprise because you see, he is an executive of his company, I did not notice any defect. He spoke very well. If he did not disclose to me the struggle he had to go through, it would never have dawned on me. I suggest you take the same track.

You are right, in today's competitive job environment, people with "excellent communication skills" have a definite edge in terms of getting hired. Communication skills would refer to good oral and written skills, usually in the English language. It is a fact that language can be learned through proper schooling and practice.

Until you work on your defect, then you have to settle for work that does not require oral communication. You need not find work by responding to ads that require "excellent communication skills." The best technique for you is to ask friends and relatives for job vacancies that build on your strengths rather than on your weaknesses. Wishing you all the best.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to advice@ancilliaedc.com.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO THE PHILIPPINES

THE DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO THE PHILIPPINES is looking for two new staff members to act as support staff for its diplomatic mission in MANILA. The vacant posts are for:

1. **Assistant Project Officer**: The principal duties include identification, appraisal, financing, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation (full project cycle management) of development and economic projects and proposals. **(1 year renewable contract).**

Candidates preferably should have:
- University Degree in a relevant field such as business administration or general management;
- Extensive experience in grants and contract management;
- Good understanding of the issues that affect efficient networking with government-related organizations, non-government organizations, civil society, other international/ donor organizations;

2. **Contracts & Finance Assistant:** The principal duties include providing support in procurement, contractual and financial matters within the section and providing assistance to the Contract Officer and the Finance Officer in the formulation of contracts and carrying out procurement activities as well as dealing with financial matters relating to payments and funding of co-operation activities of the Delegation. **(1 year renewable contract).**

Candidates preferably should have:
- University Degree in a relevant legal or financial field;
- Proven experience in administrative procedures, if possible in international organizations;
- Ability to identify and analyze key points in verbal and numeral information, evaluate alternatives objectively, and make sound, logical and well-argued judgements taking on board the impact of decisions.
- Capability to clearly and effectively conceptualize ideas and approaches, and to prepare procurement dossiers such as terms of reference and technical provisions in contracts;
- Ability to develop and maintain effective network of contacts;
- Capability to process invoices and deal with financial aspects of projects;

Both candidates should possess:
- Good organisational and interpersonal skills as well as an ability to work in a team while under pressure and with a minimum of supervision;
- Experience in an international setting with good knowledge of the European Union;
- Familiarity with Government, Diplomatic, and business circles;
- A perfect working knowledge of English; a basic knowledge of French would be an advantage;
- Computer literacy (and knowledge of commonly used programs such as Word, Excel, MS Project, Powerpoint, etc.)

The positions might require limited travel in the provinces of the Philippines.

Applications should contain full details of education, work experience, references, current remuneration, remuneration expectations, a recent photograph and a brief outline indicating why the candidate considers himself/herself suitable for the position.

Written applications for the above positions together with CVs, Qualifications and Testimonials to be sent to:

Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines, The Head of Administration, 7/F, Salustiana D. Ty Tower, 104 Paseo de Roxas, Legaspi Village, Makati City, Metro Manila 1200.
Fax: 02.812.6686 Email: DELEGATION-PHILIPPINES@cec.eu.int

Deadline for applications: 12 March 2004

Only candidates who will be interviewed will be notified.

MARKETING INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES
The Education and Training Arm of the
PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION, INC.
invites you to a seminar on

Building Blocks of Marketing A 2 Z

This seminar is specifically designed for those who may already be doing a marketing management function but whose academic preparation is not marketing. They can be front-line, mid-and upper-level managers in brand management, sales, customer relations, advertising, promotions, media and public relations.

Topics are: The Enigma of Marketing Mix in Today's Business Environment; The Econometrix of Marketing; Making Consumers Behave; Crucial Areas In Marketing Segmentation, Targeting And Positioning, and New Ideas In The New Millennium.

Speakers are: Mr. Ricardo C. de Vera, President, Certified International Trainor, Philippine Trade Training Center; Ms. Divina Capua, Chief Consumer Assistant & Protection Center, Department of Trade & Industry - NCR; Atty. Byron San Pedro, LLM, San Pedro Law Firm; Mr. Benjie C. Encarnacion, AVP, Market Intelligence, Nestle Philippines, Inc.; and Ms. Marianne Quebral, Executive Director, Venture for Fund Raising.

Schedule : **February 17, 18 & 20, 2004**
(Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday)
1:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
ACCEED - AIM Conference Center, Makati City

Course Fee : PMA Member P 5,500.00
Non-PMA Member P 6,000.00

For inquiries, please call the PMA Secretariat c/o Ms. Lydia Marinas at tells: 634-5722; 634-4890 or Fax: 636-1451

E-mail: pma@philonline.com
or lydiamm@edsamail.com.ph

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS BUT ONCE.

JOB Market
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

The value ...

From page K8

7

8

But whatever the mirror reveals to our eyes, we shouldn't spend too much time looking at it. However useful criticism is, we should not rely solely on it—and forever, too—to reshape ourselves, otherwise we would lose our individuality.

9

We can look at criticism as something of a truthful mirror: too often we like to see ourselves as faultless, but the mirror tells us otherwise and reveals ugliness that we don't like to see in us.

For criticism to bring out our best selves, it should be used like directional arrows and road signs that show us the right way to go.

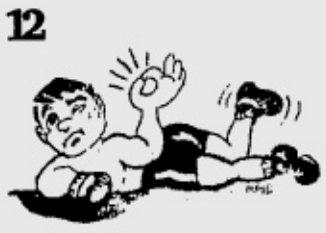
10

It is wise to remember that we cannot control how criticism may come to us. We're lucky to get gentle, obstructive criticism that would be easy to swallow. But sometimes people will embarrass us openly (like the boss whose expertise is making people feel as lowly as worms).

11

However criticism comes to us, let us take it not defensively but calmly, as a reminder that we need to look at ourselves from the viewpoint of our critics, too.

12



Even when we feel we're being hit below the belt, we need not cry "Foul!" Have faith in the "referee" who sees all and knows all and will assure us of fairness in due time. Meanwhile, let us continue to see things through our critics' eyes.

How can you make your job more fun?

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I'm tired of hating my job. It's not a bad job; it's just boring. Do you know any way to make work more fun?

Am I Crazy?

My mom could make anything fun, even a trip to the doctor. Once her doc asked her to bring in a urine sample, and she did—in four little whiskey bottles. She pulled them out of her purse and had the entire office in stitches.

But even my mom couldn't hold a candle to the fish guys at the Pike Market in Seattle. They've turned fishmongering into performance art—hollering at each other and the customers and hurling 15-pound salmon through the air. It's so clear that they have fun at work that they inspired a best-selling book, "Fish" by Steve Lundin, Harry Paul and John Christensen (Hyperion, 2000). It's a great catch for anyone who could use a little more fun in their workday.

Tips for fun

Do you know how to cheer yourself up? Even the best job can get you down. So keep a bag of tricks around that will give you a little lift: a file of complimentary letters from colleagues, bosses or customers; trusted colleagues who can talk you into a better mood; a favorite success-prone project you can dig into for a little while; a book or a toy that is guaranteed to put a smile on your face.

Do you know how to cheer up others? I had an interesting experience recently. I took my daughter to San Francisco for "Take Your Daughter To Work" day, where we stayed at the Marriott. When Ann and Rachel heard that Hallie was coming, they arranged for us to stay in a suite. Hallie took one look at the room and cried, "Daddy, I feel like a princess." Ann and Rachel got many hugs from Hallie: it made their day. If you can make others feel like royalty, chances are it'll make your day, too.

Injecting fun

Can you inject fun into your workplace? A manager once told me that she'd strung up a volleyball net across some cubicles so people could play volleyball when work got slow. Now your manager may not be hip as that, but could you start some production-related office contests, or trash can basketball tournies, or lunchtime yard darts just to put some bona fide fun into every day?

Can you inject fun into your own day? All right, your boss is a bore; your colleagues are cowards; there's no way you'll get them tossing old memos for prize money. But there's nothing to stop you from having contests with yourself. See how many phone calls you can make in an hour, or how short you can make that memo you have to write, or how you can get a sourpuss coworker to smile. Find little ways to put play into your day.

With a little creativity you can put fun back into work: And once you do, time will fly—just like those Pike Market salmon.

(Mr. Rosner is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

13

If after patiently and humbly waiting to see the reason behind the criticism, we still feel we've been unfairly judged, let's have the poise to take the jeering and the "rotten tomatoes" thrown our way as nuisances to overcome on the road to wisdom.

14

We may be tempted to hit back at our detractors, but let's not give in to that—otherwise, we will only prove them right. It's best to just work on ourselves and let our most positive and productive qualities shine through our performance.

15

A foolproof way to fortify ourselves when handling criticism leveled at us is: to offer our grievances to the most just judge of all—Him who created us and therefore knows us best. He is the only one who can judge us fairly and reveal to us the truth about ourselves, despite our vanity or other people's biases. With firm faith in Him, let us ask Him for the gift of true self-knowledge, the grace of seeing ourselves as God sees us. Once we have it, we will be able to welcome criticism gratefully and gracefully—because we will know it is His way of showing us He loves us.

PORTAL EAST
INCORPORATED

Portal East, Inc. a joint venture between Dalian Shide Group and Cartan Enterprises, Inc., engaged in fabricating PVC Windows and Doors with facility located in NY Compound, Bagbaguin , Valenzuela, is in need of highly skilled, goal-oriented and result driven individuals with the corresponding qualification requirements and job responsibilities for the ff. positions :

PLANT MANAGER
- Manage the day-to-day operations of the factory
- Set-up and implement professional manufacturing systems
- Bachelors deg. in Industrial Engineering
- 3 years experience in window fabricating plant
- Excellent managerial, communication and interpersonal skills

WINDOW DESIGNERS
- Will compute windows size measurements and related load computations
- Will discuss with customers all technical aspects of the products
- Bachelors degree in Architecture, Interior Design or Civil Engineering
- Should know AUTOCAD and VISIO applications

SALES PARTNERS
- Will do nationwide field sales
- Must be adept in diff. mktg. and selling strategies.
- Bachelors degree in Marketing or Communications
- 3 years field sales experience in building and construction industry
- Good oral and written communication skills

MACHINE ENGINEER
- Must know electrical and mechanical terms and methods
- Must be able to read and comprehend operating and troubleshooting manuals
- Bachelors degree in Electrical Engineering
- 3 years experience in troubleshooting and maintaining industrial equipments
- Exp. in PVC profile machines is an advantage

Interested applicants may submit their resume with certificates not later than **Tuesday, February 17, 2004 at #76 NY Compound, Diisalao St., Bagbaguin, Valenzuela.** Look for **Ms. Millet Celaguim.**

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A fast growing company engaged in the distribution of various medical supplies is looking for

1. SALES EXECUTIVE
The Sales Executive will be responsible in building & maintaining business relationships to current and prospective clients. He/she will help contribute to the achievement of the business sales quota, must be able to conduct product presentation & briefing to clients & ensure customer satisfaction by means of excellent customer service

Requirements:
> College Grad/Medical or Business related course
> Pref. with medical background
> With at least 2 yrs. exp. in selling pref. medical supplies
> With pleasing personality & good communication skills
> Friendly and able to relate well with customers
> Responsible, Honest and Trustworthy

2. BUSINESS DEV'T. & TRAINING EXECUTIVE
The Business Dev't and Training Executive will provide the support needed in maintaining existing accounts & injecting new ideas. Likewise, to develop the business & train the employees. Responsible for product & company presentations, report competitor's activities, formulate & implement marketing strategies & surveys other related issues.

Requirements:
> College Grad/Medical or Business related course
> With exp. in the prep. of training modules & analysis
> Must be willing to do field assisgnments
> At least 2 yrs. rel. work exp. in a supervisory position
> With pleasing personality and good comm. skills
> Must be able to relate well with diff. levels of the org.
> Can work with min. supervision and can handle pressure

3. PRODUCT SPECIALIST
The Product Specialist will be responsible on how to maintain/improve product positioning & ensure the attainment of sales of the products & services we offer.

Note: Requirements for No. 3 is the same as in No.2
All applicant for the above positions must be computer literate
Please send resume to: The HR Officer
Box No. Q.C. 2004-02 c/o Phil. Daily Inquirer, GF St. Anthony's Bldg. 891 Aurora Blvd. Corner Oxford St., Cubao, Quezon City
medsales@philonline.com

Cha Gio Cafe Restaurant

CHA GIO CAFÉ RESTAURANT – Malate is urgently in need of highly qualified individuals to fill up the following positions.

Store Manager/Supervisor (more than 5 years experience)
- Bachelor's degree preferably in Hotel and Restaurant Management or related marketing or business management courses, with excellent communication skills.
- With background in management of restaurants/cafés or similar.

Cook and Assistant Cook (3 to 5 years experience)
- College graduate, knowledgeable in Asian Cooking (Vietnamese, Thai, Chinese, Indian)
- With background as cook in restaurants/cafés

Crew and Utility Personnel
- At least two (2) years college level and 6 months experience in restaurant/cafés as crew

Interested applicants should be:
- Highly independent, self-motivated, honest, dedicated, hard-working and a good team-player
- Must have pleasing personality able to work with minimum supervision, and computer literate

Fax curriculum vitae with photo before 21 February 2004 to:

The General Manager
Lumar Management Services; Fax No. (632) 521-6797

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Islamic foundation providing financial aid to Muslim communities throughout the world seeks to expand its financial program to the Southern Philippines. Development Consulting Group (DCG), which manages accounts for this foundation, is accepting applications for Muslim consultants who can provide accurate and in-depth information on political and economic risks that impact development in the Islamic community in the Philippines. Applicants must have excellent personal and professional contacts in the Philippine Muslim community. Preferred applicants will speak English and Arabic.

Please submit comprehensive resumé and photo to:

Development Consulting Group (DCG)
Suite 1903B West Tower, PSE Centre
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. (02) 687-5028 Loc. 321
Fax No. (02) 631-4858

WWF

WWF, one of the world's leading independent conservation organisations, with a global network in 100 countries is in need of:

Human Resources Development (HRD) Director

He/she provides leadership to and oversight on the human resource needs of WWF-Philippines to deliver its conservation and development mandate and goals, through these functions – recruitment, selection and hiring, staff orientation, compensation and benefits, learning and staff development, performance and knowledge management, systems and policies, labor relations and working environment. He/she is responsible for the 5-year HRD strategic plan of WWF. He/ she plans, directs, implements and oversees the following functional areas: employee relations, performance and knowledge management, recruitment, training and human resource development.

Qualifications: 1) He/she must have completed a four-year degree, preferably in Psychology, Business Administration, Management Engineering, Development Communications, Sociology, Social Sciences or equivalent field related to Human Resources Development or Personnel Management. 2) At least three years managerial experience in Human Resources Development. 3) A strong commitment to providing quality service. 4) Working knowledge of appropriate employment laws and regulations; and 5) Should have the ability to interpret and appropriately apply policies and procedures to different employee relations situations.

Interested parties are advised to submit their curriculum vitae with the latest 2x2 photo to:

Recruitment and Training, HRD Unit
KABANG KALIKASAN NG PILIPINAS
LBI Bldg., 57 Kalayaan Ave., Diliman, Quezon City 1101

Deadline for submission is 29 February 2004. We will respond to qualified candidates only.

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The value of criticism

BEST Attitudes

By Teresa Reyes Tunay
Illustrations by Rolando Reyes

NO one has become successful at work or in life without encountering—and learning from—criticism. It's natural to initially reject criticism, and a person so humble as to welcome it without a trace of resentment at all is hard to find. But it's certainly worth trying to become that person, grateful for criticism, and growing from it.

1

Anywhere you go, at work, with friends, or even at home, you're bound to find someone whose expertise seems to be faultfinding, scrutinizing your moves and coming up with a list of what he sees as your flaws.

2

There are those who play deaf to the reality that criticism aims to show—they only like to hear what they want to hear. Little do they know that rejecting criticism is rejecting the opportunity to improve themselves by learning from their mistakes.

3

At times, our best efforts still seem inadequate for our superiors; thus we get disapproval instead of the praises we're hoping for. When this happens, do not get discouraged, disheartened or depressed. Remember, just as no one is so perfect as to be spared from criticism, no critic has perfect judgment either.

4

No one goes through life without experiencing putdowns every so often. See how our newspapers thrive on it? Celebrities, kings and queens, presidents, geniuses, even people who already appear perfect in our eyes (like "living saints" such as Mother Teresa) also have their share of detractors.

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Reflections for the Working Soul
p. K6

HR Focus: Reyna Carrillo
p. K4

Advice for the Anxious Person at Work
p. K6

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Imagine if all we heard about ourselves were praises! If all the people around us did nothing but pat us on the back, would we still be challenged to improve our lot? No, we would all sit on our laurels and feel good, but that wouldn't last for long.

6

Human that we are, all those praises would sooner or later lead to pride, until we get sucked into a situation that will surely lead to our downfall. That's the time we think we are infallible and can never be wrong.

THEVALUE/K7

BONE-TIRED AT WORK?
SOUL-WEARY?
It's TIME for REFLECTIONS on the WORKPLACE

REFLECTIONS AT WORK SEMINAR SERIES

March 29, 30 & 31, 2004 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, H.V. de la Costa St. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City

March 29 (Monday) - Living our Spiritual Values at Work (Reflections for the Working Soul)

Resource person:
Teresa Reyes Tunay
Blue Collar Magazine editor-in-chief and columnist in Philippine Daily Inquirer's Sunday People at Work writing Reflections for the Working Soul

This session will tackle the issue of the spirituality gap—the gap between our spiritual beliefs and the way we live our lives. Since work occupies a big chunk of our lives, this gap is also reflected in our workplace—how we conduct ourselves, how we relate with our coworkers, superiors and subordinates, and how we handle moral and ethical issues at work.

What are the spiritual values that we need to live by at work and how can we live these values in our day-to-day work activities and relationships? How can living our spiritual values help in our personal transformation so that we can find greater wholeness and fulfill the purpose of our existence?

March 30 (Tuesday) - Building a Spiritual Community at Work (Reflections for the Organizational Soul)

Resource person:
Jocelyn Marie Fallarme Neri
Organizational Development and Training Consultant, Psychotherapist and Pranic Healer and currently working as Senior Training Manager in an IT company

This session will tackle how people in organizations inflict wounds on one another resulting in a conflict and intrigue ridden organization—in effect a "wounded" organization. What are the wounds we inflict on each other's souls and how do these wounds impair the effectiveness of various parts of the organization and the organization's ability to fulfill its purposes? What are the ways in which we can prevent the wounding of the organizational soul? What can we do to heal the wounds of the person and the organization? How can we proceed from there to build a community that is infused with our spiritual values that can help the company achieve its true potential?

March 31 (Wednesday) Enhancing SQ (Spiritual Intelligence) in Leadership (Reflections for the Leader's Soul)

Resource person:
Andre San Agustin, Ph.D.
Master Trainer, Inner Excellence Seminars and former professor in various US universities (Univ. of Arizona, Manhattan College, Iona College New York, Univ. of San Francisco, Univ. of San Diego) and in Asian Institute of Management.

This session will examine the impact of SQ or spiritual intelligence in leadership. We often find rigid demarcations between our private and public lives, reserving the spiritual for the private and leadership for the public. Yet, this very separation robs leaders of a view of the whole, resulting in actions guided by a rationality that may ultimately harm the spirit of an organization. Can a high SQ in leaders help them confront the leadership challenges of their organizations? How can leaders enhance their spiritual intelligence and infuse their leadership with spiritual values? How can they tap the spiritual resources of their organizations to enable the whole organization to achieve its vision and mission?

TO REGISTER, CALL TEL. NO. 935-6678 OR EMAIL optima@edsamail.com.ph. SUBSIDIZED REGISTRATION FEES PER SESSION: P350 (Patron), P300 (Orchestra), P250 (Balcony). STUDENT DISCOUNT: 50%; TEACHERS / GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES: 25%. FEE INCLUDES HANDOUTS, CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION.

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Sunday PEOPLE

Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

The value of criticism

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Illustrations by Rolando Reyes

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e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

Sunday PEOPLE at WORK

Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

The value of criticism

BEST Attitudes

By Teresa Reyes Tunay
Illustrations by Rolando Reyes

NO one has become successful at work or in life without encountering—and learning from—criticism. It's natural to initially reject criticism, and a person so humble as to welcome it without a trace of resentment at all is hard to find. But it's certainly worth trying to become that person, grateful for criticism, and growing from it.

1

Anywhere you go, at work, with friends, or even at home, you're bound to find someone whose expertise seems to be faultfinding, scrutinizing your moves and coming up with a list of what he sees as your flaws.

2

There are those who play deaf to the reality that criticism aims to show—they only like to hear what they want to hear. Little do they know that rejecting criticism is rejecting the opportunity to improve themselves by learning from their mistakes.

At times, our best efforts still seem inadequate for our superiors; thus we get disapproval instead of the praises we're hoping for. When this happens, do not get discouraged, disheartened or depressed. Remember, just as no one is so perfect as to be spared from criticism, no critic has perfect judgment either.

3

No one goes through life without experiencing putdowns every so often. See how our newspapers thrive on it? Celebrities, kings and queens, presidents, geniuses, even people who already appear perfect in our eyes (like "living saints" such as Mother Teresa) also have their share of detractors.

4

What's inside

Reflections for the Working Soul p. K6

HR Focus: Reyna Carrillo p. K4

Advice for the Anxious Person at Work p. K6

5

Imagine if all we heard about ourselves were praises! If all the people around us did nothing but pat us on the back, would we still be challenged to improve our lot? No, we would all sit on our laurels and feel good, but that wouldn't last for long.

6

Human that we are, all those praises would sooner or later lead to pride, until we get sucked into a situation that will surely lead to our downfall. That's the time we think we are infallible and can never be wrong.

BONE-TIRED AT WORK?
SOUL-WEARY?

It's TIME for REFLECTIONS on the WORKPLACE

REFLECTIONS AT WORK SEMINAR SERIES

March 29, 30 & 31, 2004 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, H.V. de la Costa St. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City

March 29 (Monday) - Living our Spiritual Values at Work (Reflections for the Working Soul)

Resource person:
Teresa Reyes Tunay
Blue Collar Magazine editor-in-chief and columnist in Philippine Daily Inquirer's Sunday People at Work writing Reflections for the Working Soul

This session will tackle the issue of the spirituality gap—the gap between our spiritual beliefs and the way we live our lives. Since work occupies a big chunk of our lives, this gap is also reflected in our workplace—how we conduct ourselves, how we relate with our coworkers, superiors and subordinates, and how we handle moral and ethical issues at work.

What are the spiritual values that we need to live by at work and how can we live these values in our day-to-day work activities and relationships? How can living our spiritual values help in our personal transformation so that we can find greater wholeness and fulfill the purpose of our existence?

March 30 (Tuesday) - Building a Spiritual Community at Work (Reflections for the Organizational Soul)

Resource person:
Jocelyn Marie Fallarme Neri
Organizational Development and Training Consultant, Psychotherapist and Pranic Healer and currently working as Senior Training Manager in an IT company

This session will tackle how people in organizations inflict wounds on one another resulting in a conflict and intrigue ridden organization—in effect a "wounded" organization. What are the wounds we inflict on each other's souls and how do these wounds impair the effectiveness of various parts of the organization and the organization's ability to fulfill its purposes? What are the ways in which we can prevent the wounding of the organizational soul? What can we do to heal the wounds of the person and the organization? How can we proceed from there to build a community that is infused with our spiritual values that can help the company achieve its true potential?

March 31 (Wednesday) Enhancing SQ (Spiritual Intelligence) In Leadership (Reflections for the Leader's Soul)

Resource person:
Andre San Agustin, Ph.D.
Master Trainer, Inner Excellence Seminars and former professor in various US universities (Univ. of Arizona, Manhattan College, Iona College New York, Univ. of San Francisco, Univ. of San Diego) and in Asian Institute of Management.

This session will examine the impact of SQ or spiritual intelligence in leadership. We often find rigid demarcations between our private and public lives, reserving the spiritual for the private and leadership for the public. Yet, this very separation robs leaders of a view of the whole, resulting in actions guided by a rationality that may ultimately harm the spirit of an organization. Can a high SQ in leaders help them confront the leadership challenges of their organizations? How can leaders enhance their spiritual intelligence and infuse their leadership with spiritual values? How can they tap the spiritual resources of their organizations to enable the whole organization to achieve its vision and mission?

TO REGISTER, CALL TEL. NO. 935-6678 OR EMAIL optima@edsamail.com.ph. SUBSIDIZED REGISTRATION FEES PER SESSION: P350 (Patron), P300 (Orchestra), P250 (Balcony). STUDENT DISCOUNT: 50%; TEACHERS / GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES: 25%. FEE INCLUDES HANDOUTS, CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION.

Sponsors: Equitable PCI; McGraw Hill Education

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JOB Market

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2004
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This special section comes FREE with your copy of the
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
published every Sunday and distributed in key cities
RATES (E-VAT exclusive)
P230 per column centimeter every Sunday
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Thursday 12:00 noon

Overseas Section on pages L4 & L5

Part II

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February 16 –21, 2004

9am – 5pm

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FOR A PERIOD OF 6 MONTHS FROM DATE OF APPLICATION

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- TRAINERS JOB CODE: *PSU-M-T*
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- FACILITIES ENGINEER JOB CODE: *A-M-FE*
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- HR ASSOCIATES JOB CODE: *HR-M-A*

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e-Office One, AsiaTown IT Park, Apas, Lahug, Cebu City 6000 • 1100 Glendon Ave., Suite 1250 Los Angeles, CA 90024

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- **Office Manager / Senior Accountant (1)**
  5 years experience in finance and administration in a senior capacity. CPA required. Interested in consulting and training
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- **Administrative Assistant**
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Punla sa Tao Foundation offers a competitive salary and benefits package to individuals interested in making a commitment to their growth as professionals and social entrepreneurs.

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Look for Ms. AMY CACHO
sales@activegroup.com.ph

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Responsible for the execution of company objectives, achievement of sales and profitability targets, while ensuring the highest level of operation efficiency. Must have minimum 2 years retail experience, at least 26 years old with good interpersonal, organization and planning skills. Analytical, customer-oriented and can relate well with all levels in an organization.

Section Heads

Responsible for inventory and stock management, scheduling, sales forecasting and visual merchandising. Will also be tasked to motivate and maintain an effective and productive team. Must be willing to work a schedule of rotating shifts and weekends. Customer-oriented with excellent leadership, interpersonal and communication skills. Fresh graduates of any business course willing to undergo training are welcome to apply as **Manager Trainees.**

HR Officers

Main responsibility is to assist the HR Manager in ensuring the effective performance of store Human Resource functions in the areas of Recruitment and Selection, Employee Relations, and Benefits Administration. Those with 1-2 years relevant experience in HRMD are preferred.

Store Logistics Officer

Main responsibility is to ensure the efficient and consistent flow of inventory while supervising a team of warehousing and receiving personnel. Those with experience in stock control, warehousing and receiving, gained in a consumer retail environment an advantage. Must be customer-oriented, with a sense of ownership, a keen eye on product quality an advantage.

Technical Support Staff

The ideal candidate must have knowledge in troubleshooting of different brands of PC, workstation, servers, printers and Local Area Network. Must also proficient in Windows NT/2000 server. Exposure in any platform of POS retail applications is an advantage.

Store Visual Artists

Must be a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Architecture/Interior Design or Fine Arts, at least 23 years old. Knowledge in Corel Draw 9.0 and AUTOCADD 2000 an advantage. Creative, organized, and results-oriented.

Accounting/Audit Staff

Must be a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy. Must be highly analytical and hardworking.

Loss Prevention Officer

Must have good exposure on the following areas: loss prevention-control of inventory shrinkage, company safety, internal audit, inventory control, security of corporate assets, facilities and data and supply chain procedure (warehouse processes). Graduate of Industrial Engineering, Accountancy or Business Administration. Fresh graduates willing to undergo training are welcome to apply.

Interested Applicants may submit their Resume', with Application Letter and 2 x 2 colored Photo:

On Feb. 18-21, 2004 **BACOLOD CONVENTION PLAZA HOTEL**
Magsaysay Avenue, 6100 Bacolod City, Negros Occidental
Time: **9:00 am** to **3:00 pm**

or submit by e-mail at HRMD@bigr.com.ph

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- Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry
- Preferably Male
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6th Floor, One Corporate Plaza Building
845 A. Arnaiz Avenue,
Legaspi Village, Makati City
E-mail address: richel@paccohq.com

Deadline of application is on February 21, 2004.

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- **5 Senior Visual Basic Programmers**
  At least 3 years commercial Visual Basic experience
  Good database and trouble shooting skills
- **1 Systems Engineer**
  At least 3 years experience in networking, Multisite LAN, and WAN using CISCO and Windows
  Email and database server administration skills is also a plus
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  At least 2 years commercial experience in designing and developing web pages
  Should be familiar with HTML / JavaScript and Graphical Softwares.

Apply to: POWERLINE, INC.
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Tel: (032) 416-2022 Fax: (032) 345-8604

Or Email to : Apply@farcite.com
Requirments : Application Letter, TOR, Resume with 2x2 picture

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Any of the following will qualify:

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5th flr. Bldg. B, SM Megamall
Edsa, Mandaluyong City

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- exp. in maintenance of deepwell & water distribution sys. in subd.
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- B.S. Psychology graduate / not over 30 years old
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** Bring resumé and credentials

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- Knowledgeable in preparing financial statements
- Good oral & written communication skills
- Familiar with MS Word/Excel; Quickbooks
- Multi-tasking-oriented, honest, self-motivated & hardworking

Interested applicants please fax your bio-data and 2x2 picture to The Personnel Officer: 426-6146 or e-mail: scentl@info.com.ph

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- Willing to work in Meycauayan, Bulacan

Please send your resumé with picture to ewearco@hotmail.com

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The scholarship will be awarded based on a written exam and interview. Applicants stand the chance of getting 15% to 100% scholarship on course fees.

Important Dates: **Qualifying Test:** Feb. 21, 2004 **Deadline of Application:** Feb. 20, 2004

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- ☒ Can work under extreme pressure
- ☒ High emotional quotient is a must
- ☒ Female, 28 years old and below

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- ☒ Communication Arts, Behavioral Science or Education graduate
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- ☒ Can work under extreme pressure
- ☒ High Emotional Quotient is a must

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES
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- ☒ With pleasing personality
- ☒ At least 5'5" & 5'2" tall respectively
- ☒ A graduate of any 4-year course preferably in management
- ☒ With good scholastic records
- ☒ Possess a sense of leadership & good communication skills
- ☒ Trustworthy, hardworking & customer-oriented
- ☒ Can work with less supervision and willing to work long hours
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- ☒ With or without experience
- ☒ Trustworthy, hardworking & customer oriented
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- ☒ Willing to work on flexi schedules
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Qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resumé & credentials to any VIDEO CITY Stores located at Cavite, Laguna, Marikina (Parang & Concepcion) & Rizal (San Mateo, Montalban & Cainta Junction). Applicants who are ready for interviews and examinations may bring their resumé and original requirements to our head office at #29 First St. cor. Gilmore Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City (near St. Paul College, Q.C.) Tel. Nos. 7246356/7250074/7250319.

We entertain applicants with complete original requirements only.

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- Picture 4 pcs. 1x1 and 2 pcs. 2x2 white background

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Suite 806, West Tower, Tektite Phil. Stock Exchange Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas, Pasig City
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Note: 1st 10 qualified will start immediately.
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FAREAST EXPRESS REMITTANCE INC.
Rm. 203 Richbelt Tower Condominium
17 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, M.M.
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CHEF COOK

Qualification:
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- At least graduate of 4-year course in HRM in any prestigious Universities and Colleges in Manila
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- With good communication skills oral and written, must be fluent in English
- Can speak Mandarin & Fokien
- Know how to cook Taiwanese, Chinese & Vietnamese food

Interested applicants may call and send their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 colored picture to Ms. Erly Bautista and Ms. Arlene Barba at tel. no. (047) 252-5395/96

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- Mentors/coaches an average of 25 technical professionals.
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- Responsible for the safety of personnel, proper utilization of company assets and the upkeep of his surrounding environment.

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- The candidate MUST be a graduate of ECE or EE.
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- Possesses good communication skills and can relate well to people.
- Must be objective and mature enough to handle conflicts. Excellent coaching skills.
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- Willing to be relocated to the Queen City of the South – Cebu.

Founded in 1960, TERADYNE is the world's largest supplier of automatic test equipment and software for the electronics and telecommunications industries. Its Repair Center facility in Cebu has been in operation since 1996 and now employs more than 100 technical professionals coming from all over the country.

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Interested and qualified applicants are advised to send in Application Letter, Comprehensive Resumé **not later than 28 February 2004** to:

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Mactan Export Processing Zone II
Basak, Lapu-Lapu City
Cebu, Philippines 6015
Or email to: **Philippines.jobs@teradyne.com** **(please do not attach TOR)**

CONSULTANCY OPPORTUNITIES

The Australian Government's Overseas Aid Agency, AusAID, is funding a multi-million Human Resource Development Facility to build capacity within key institutions in the Philippine through targeted human resource development and training.

International Development Support Services Pty Ltd (IDSS), a project management and professional training organisation based in Melbourne, will be tendering for the management of this activity and seeks expressions of interest for the following key program positions (full time: initial contract for 2 years):

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The Facility Director (FD), based in Manila with occassional travel to Mindanao and Visayas will be responsible for the provision of technical and administrative support to the PHRDF and coordinating its operation. Candidates, preferably Australian or New Zealand nationals, should have several years experience in the management of development programs, preferably in human resource development and capacity building, including the provision of advice to policy formulating bodies. Prior Team Leader experience with major donors is also required. Qualifications in adult education, an understanding of Australian tertiary education systems, and a working knowledge of Tagalog will be of distinct advantage.

Training Advisors (multiple positions):

Candidates, preferably Philippines nationals, will have demonstrated experience in training and human resource development, working with diverse public and private sector organisations in skill-formation programs, capacity building in a range of sectors including civil society partnerships. Australians, New Zealanders and nationals of other countries may also apply. Proven experience in monitoring and evaluation, training needs analyses and curricula design will also be viewed favourably. Two of the positions will be based in Manila and two in Davao, Mindanao. Understanding of social and cultural issues and capacity development needs in Mindanao will be of distinct advantage.

Attractive remuneration for both positions will be offered.

Please forward expressions of interest by 3 March 2004 (early response encouraged) and CVs to Anna Gilbert at: annag@idss.com.au

For Immediate Hiring

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

- Male/Female, not over 45 years old
- Preferably CPA
- Extensive knowledge and experience in general accounting & cost accounting procedures in cargo company
- Hardworking & willing to work extended hours

MANAGER INT'L FORWARDING OPERATION (Air & Sea)

- Male/Female, not over 45 years old
- With experience in Int'l Forwarding Operation for both air/sea freight
- With good oral and written communication skills

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- Male/Female, not over 30 years old
- Marketing Graduate or any related courses
- With experience in both air/sea freight cargo
- Computer literate and with good oral and written communication skills

ACCOUNTING STAFF

- Male/Female, not over 25 years old
- Accounting Graduate
- With or without experience
- Computer Literate and with good oral and written communication skills

Applicants may send their comprehensive resumé with recent 2x2 photo to:

BOX MN–2051
c/o Classified Ads
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Pasong Tamo cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
Makati City

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needs
CONSUMER SALESMEN

- 21-28 years old
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- With Professional Driver's license
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Apply in person from Monday to Saturday (morning only) at:
ZEBRA HOLDINGS COMPOUND
Fairlane cor. West Capitol Drive
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Females, 30 & under, w/ wo experience.
Hardworking, self-motivated,
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Drop off your resumé w/ a 2x2 photo at Logic House 1811 L.M. Guerrero St., Rm#402, Malate, Mla. (Bet Nakpil & Remedios St.)
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TREND AIR CONDTIONING, a Mech. Contractor, needs a
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w/ sales exp. in ME Svcs, Coll. grad (pref ME), computer literate, age 21-29
Kath/ Letty 8375358 or 8374168 loc 203

A prestigious Corporation engaged in the tourism industry is in need of
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Interested parties may send their resumé and photocopy of driver's license to P.O. Box EA–459 Manila.

A PROGRESSIVE TELEMARKETING FIRM INVITES APPLICANTS FOR THE POSITION OF:
TELEMARKETERS

- At least college level
- Efficient and can work effectively under pressure
- With good communication and selling skills
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- Not more than 30 years of age

Successful applicants can expect a competitive compensation package along with regular developmental training.
Qualified applicants may come personally or send letter of application with resumé and recent 2x2 photo to:
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9th Floor, Vernida IV Building
128 L.P. Leviste Street
Salcedo Village, Makati City
email address: victrix8@info.com.ph

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST & ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- Preferably graduate or any Marketing related course
- Excellent communication skills
- Computer literate
- Previous sales experience an advantage
- Capable of multi-tasking
- Will be responsible for the formulation & execution of Marketing, Advertising, Research Merchandising strategies & programs (for PDS)

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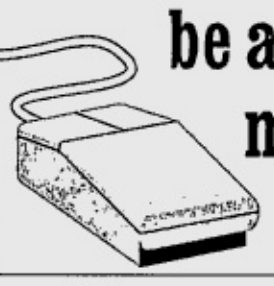

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- Seven (7) - years experience at least three (3) years in similar position in Japanese cuisine
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- Not more than 35 years old
- Must have finished at least two (2) years of college education
- Knowledge in Japanese language
- Flexible
- Ability to train and develop subordinate
- Expert in a la carte cuisine

Banquet Coordinator
For the Food and Beverage (Banquet Section)

- Female, not more than 32 years old
- College graduate preferably in Marketing, Business Management or Hotel and Restaurant Management
- At least four- (4) years related work experience
- Personable, charming and aggressive
- Written and verbal facility is a must
- Personable and aggressive with good salesmanship
- Service-oriented, keen attention to fine details
- Knowledge of the hotel's facilities, layout and service standards
- Knowledge of food and beverage, proper service techniques, etiquette of entertaining small and large groups and function room decoration ability is a must

COST CONTROLLER

- Male or Female, not more than 35 years old
- College graduate, preferably accounting or its equivalent
- At least two (2) years experience in managerial/supervisory capacity in cost accounting or related area
- Personable and assertive
- Good moral character, high integrity and honest

Qualified candidates are invited to submit their resumés with corresponding letter of application, recent 2 x 2 colored photo, and relevant certificates at:

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3/F Bonifacio Technology Center 31st St., cor 2nd Ave., Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City Taguig M. M. 1634

Tel. 7575588 Cell: 09189247810
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Please bring bio-data, 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background, SSS number, TIN (if available). Please come in blouse and skirt.

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20-GRADUATES OF: BSC, Tourism, Educ., Philo & Psyc
12-GRADUATES OF: CoE, ComSci & other IT related courses

** Age 20 to 35 years old, with or w/o experience, licensed or non-licensed and willing to be assigned in different positions available in the company.
** Hiring starts on February 16-20, 2004 (8 AM to 5 PM)

FRESH GRADUATES ARE ALSO ACCEPTED.

Interested applicants may apply personally with comprehensive resumé, original credentials and 2x2 picture at:

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Look for Ms. Estrada

* Clip this ad to your resumé *

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6 CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENT (Code: CSA)
- Excellent in English communications
- Male/Female College Level/College Graduate
- Flexible and willing to work in shifts and holidays
- Experience as a call center agent an advantage

1 WEB PROGRAMMER (Code: PRG)
Required Proficiency: HTML, JavaScript, PHP, MySQL, Java (optional), JSP (optional)
- Excellent in English communication skills. Male/Female
- Graduate of BS Computer Science or related course
- Mature, hardworking, trustworthy & can work with minimum supervision
- 1-2 years experience as a web programmer an advantage
- Submit sample websites or work documents

Interested applicants may email their CV or Resumé in MS Word format to msabado@storesonline.com on or before February 18, 2004.

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Interested applicants should meet the following requirements:

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2. College diploma
3. Transcript of records with RLE
4. PRC license with board rating
5. Employment certificate
6. Birth certificate of applicant (include spouse & children, if applicable)
7. Marriage certificate (if married)
8. CGFNS, TOEFL, TSE, IELTS certificates (if available)
9. 2x2 picture

Representatives from the USA will interview applicants from February 27 - March 9, 2004. Contracts will be awarded on the spot to qualified candidates with complete paperwork.

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POEA License No. 047-LB-082503-PL
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(the street between Pacific Villageand Elsie Gaches)
Telephone No. 772-0073 to 74

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HELPER – At least high school graduate, can speak English, age must be 22 to 25 years old, Muslim male, must be well body built.

WAITRESS – With 3 years experience in a fine dining restaurant, height 5'3" above, single, with pleasing personality.

SALESLADIES – With pleasing personality, age from 22-30 years old, single. Height must be 5'3" above, with good experience in the same field.

FURNITURE CARPENTER – With 5 years experience, at least 23-40 years old

UPHOLSTERER – With 5 years experience, at least 23-40 years old.

CAKE DECORATOR – Female & male baker/pastry, with good experience in doing pastries.

MANAGER – Inbound Travel – MBA/Graduate in Travel & Tourism, 7-10 years managerial experience in a major inbound operating company, age 40 years old.

MANAGER CARGO – MBA/Graduate, IATA Certificate in Air Cargo Management, with 7-10 years experience, 40 years old.

AGENT – Inbound Travel – Graduate in Travel & Tourism or related field, 4-6 years experience in similar position, age 32 years old.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY – Must be professional in the same field, proficient in doing business correspondence, 4-6 years experience, with pleasing personality, 20-30 years old.

DOMESTIC HELPER – At least high school graduate, can speak English.

Applicants are requested to personally submit C.V.'s and credential at:

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To take advantage of this opportunity, Metro Manila candidates must personally apply ASAP. Provincial candidates may send their comprehensive resume, school records (diploma, transcript of records), board rating, training certificates, employment credentials, plus two (2) passport photographs to

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since 1972
Registration No. 9615700
POEA-161-LB-040102-R

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1455 Leon Guinto Sr. St. 1004
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E-Mail us@ipams.com / Fax: 521-1189 or 521-1320
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February 23, 2004 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Bethel Guest House
Rizal Blvd., Dumaguete City
Telephone #: 225-2000

February 24, 2004 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
L'Fisher Hotel
14th and Lackson St., Bacolod City
Telephone #: 404-3426

February 26, 2004 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Hill St., Davao City
Telephone #: 225-8888

February 28, 2004 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
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** For further info, please contact

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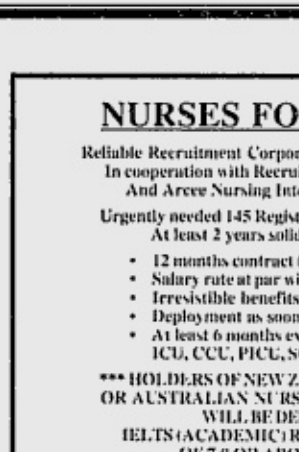

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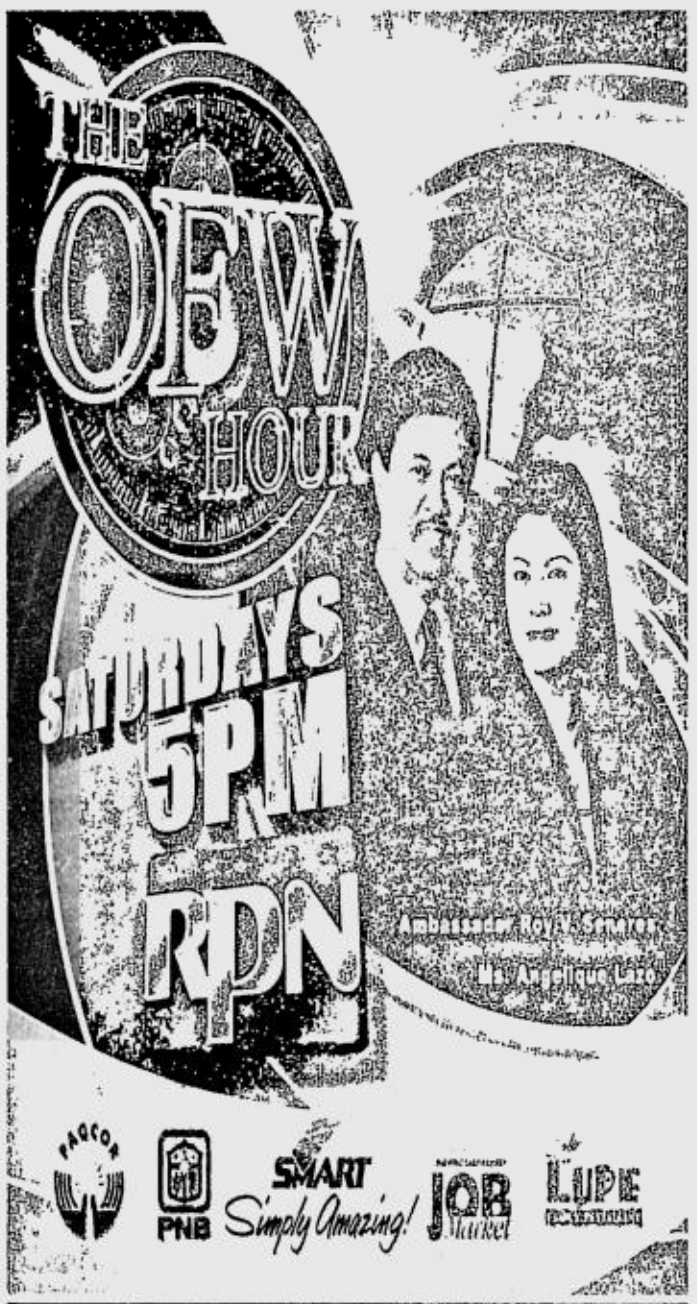

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  - ☐ Finance and Investment
  - ☐ Management
  - ☐ Marketing and Sales
  - ☐ Economic Analysis
  - ☐ Tourism and Travel
  - ☐ Local Community Development
  - ☐ Architectural Drafting
  - ☐ Paralegal Activities
  - ☐ Computer Applications

  [PLEASE INDICATE YOUR AREA(S) OF INTEREST]
- You must unconditionally:
  - ☐ Be willing to work full-time including late and off hours, weekends and holidays
  - ☐ Be able to get along with others
  - ☐ Submit to written testing, some of which will be remotely administered, and extensive oral interviews
  - ☐ Be totally committed to adapt to the company's existing culture, if you are accepted
  - ☐ Possess and have a verifiable record of unquestionable integrity and trustworthiness (references will be required)
  - ☐ Have some computer literacy or are eager to learn
  - ☐ Agree to teach and pass on acquired knowledge and skills to others to assist and then replace you so you can be promoted in the future

If you fill the above conditions, please submit your full bio-data, I.D. photo, e-mail address and fax no. (for remote preliminary testing) to:

HRD
P.O. Box 130 MCPO
Makati City

You may wish to secure a documented book about our institution by stating so in your application letter together with a check or cash equivalent to P500.00. Upon approval, first come first served, we shall send a copy to you which you may either keep, or return any time within 30 days for a full refund.

Account Executive

- Male/Female at least 25 years old
- Access to or owning a car
- Degree or background in either Interior Design or Architecture
- Pleasing personality
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills in Tagalog and English both verbal and written
- Previous sales experience a plus.

We offer:

- Basic salary + generous commission scheme
- Gasoline allowance
- Training
- A friendly working environment

Graphic Artist

- With depth knowledge of Adobe Photoshop
- Efficient and can work with no supervision
- Good command of English

Interested parties may fax their resumé with contact numbers, transcript of records and NBI Clearance to (02) 823-4380 or call 776-2281 to 85 for an appointment.

JAGUAR Born to perform · LAND ROVER · Ferrari · MASERATI

THE MOST EXCLUSIVE LUXURY CAR BRANDS IN THE WORLD NEED YOU...

- **GENERAL ACCOUNTANT**
  Male / female, between 25 - 35 yrs. old, college graduate, 3 to 5 yrs. General / Cost Accounting experience, good communications skills and computer literate.
- **SALES EXECUTIVE**
  Male / female, between 25 - 35 yrs. old, college graduate with sales or marketing experience, excellent communications and people handling skills, agressive and with initiative, computer literate and must know how to drive.
- **SALES RECEPTIONIST / TELEPHONE OPERATOR**
  Female, between 20 - 30 yrs. old, college graduate, excellent communications skills, pleasing personality and computer literate.
- **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT FOR SERVICE**
  Male / female, between 20 -30 yrs. old, college graduate, excellent communications skills and computer literate.
- **AUTOMOTIVE ELECTRONIC ELECTRICIAN**
  Male, between 25 -35 yrs. old, technical or vocational school graduate, knowledgeable in computerized diagnostic automotive systems and computer literate.
- **DRIVER**
  Male, between 25 -35 yrs. old, 5 years driving experience, at least high school graduate with professional driver's license.

Forward your resume' with ID photo to
Enzo Bldg., Ground Floor 399 Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City or you may e-mail your resume' to: sales@jaguar.com.ph

iREMIT
GLOBAL REMITTANCE

iRemit Incorporated is engaged in International Money Transfer Services.
Due to its rapid expansion, we are urgently in need of the following:

COUNTRY CUSTOMER CARE OFFICERS (5)

- shall oversee the direct and smooth flow of transactions of his/her country assignment, ensuring the efficient and effective servicing of remittance to beneficiaries.
- with opportunity for foreign assignment

Qualifications:
- Bachelor's degree holder in any Business related course, preferably with Accounting background from a reputable school
- With at least two (2) year experience in banking, remittance or other financial institutions
- With excellent communication, presentation and interpersonal skills
- Knowledge of any third language is an advantage
- Must be willing to work on shifts, extended hours and holidays
- Knowledgeable of MS application

TELEMARKETING ASSOCIATES (3)

- shall be responsible for promoting the products and services of the company

Qualifications:
- College graduate of any Business course
- With at least one year experience in the same position gained from banks, remittance industry or other financial institutions
- Highly conversant and has a well-modulated voice
- With high level of motivation and drive to succeed
- Willing to work on shifts and holidays

Previous applicants need not apply.

Send your application papers to :
Human Resources and Corporate Services
iRemit Incorporated
26/F Discovery Centre, 25 ADB Ave.,
Ortigas Center Pasig City
careers@iremit-inc.com

www.mviremit.com

CHRYSLER
MANDALUYONG

A top dealership of **Chrysler, Jeep,** and **Dodge** vehicles is in need of:

INTERNAL AUDITOR
- M/F, w/ at least 2 years experience: preferably CPA
- Excellent in oral & written communication skills
- Aggressive, independent and result oriented

ACCOUNTING STAFF
- Accounting graduate; female/single with good moral character
- Experience in bank reconciliation & inventory (experience in automotive industry is highly desirable)

VEHICLE SALES EXECUTIVES
- Male or Female, not more than 35 years old, college graduate
- Assertive, customer oriented and with pleasing personality
- Automotive sales experience an advantage

OTHERS
Service Technicians – exp. in auto mechanical, electrical, a/c
Parts Expediter – with driver's lic.; knowledgeable in auto parts descrp.

Interested parties may send their comprehensive resumé, transcript of records with 2x2 colored photo to:
Human Resources & Management Department
TRANS EAGLE CORPORATION
503 Boni Ave. cor.San Rafael St., Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. 5319075-79/Fax No. 532-3398

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES

Duty Free Philippines
needs
ASSOCIATE AUDITORS

QUALIFICATIONS

CPA with one year relevant auditing experience
Good written and oral communication skills
Trustworthy and independent-minded
Computer Literate
Analytical and can work under pressure

CASHIERS

QUALIFICATIONS

Male or Female; 20-30 years old
Graduate of any 4-year course
Pleasing personality, alert and patient
5'3 for Female & 5'5 for Male

Applicants may apply personally at:
EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT
Ground Floor, EHA Building
Duty Free Fiestamall
Ninoy Aquino Ave., Parañaque City
Application starts February 16- 27, 2004
(Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)

REQUIREMENTS
Printed Resume, 1 pc. 2x2 picture
Photocopy & Original of NBI Clearance (less than 1 year old),
Birth Certificate & Transcript of Records

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS BUT ONCE!!!
BASIC SALARY GUARANTEED!
+ EARN 20,000.00 – 30,000.00/MONTH!!
++ COMPANY CAR!!! INTERESTED???

be the lucky

FEMALE SALES REPRESENTATIVE
- With pleasing & dynamic personality
- Experience in sales of consumer products preferred but not necessary
- Good verbal and communication skills
- Graduate of any business course
- Holder of a driver's license
- Confident, aggressive and hardworking
- Single, 23-26 years old

SECRETARY
- Graduate of any 4-year course
- With marketing and sales experience
- With background in administrative/ secretarial functions
- With pleasing and charming personality
- Single, 23-27 years old
- Willing to work long hours

Due to the urgency of the requirements, personally apply during the following schedule
Sales Representative (Feb. 16-18, 2004; Mon.-Wed. 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.)
Secretary (February 19-21, 2004; Thurs.-Sat. 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.)
Bring resumé, transcript of records, picture and other credentials

Barrio Fiesta Manufacturing Corporation

BARRIO FIESTA MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
Barrio Fiesta Compound, Restaurant Avenue,
Marcos Highway Dela Paz Pasig City
Near Bakahan at Manukan and Barrio Fiesta Restaurant

JUNNA GROUP OF COMPANIES

Immediate Hiring

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR
Male or Female
Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy
Certified Public Accountant
At least 2 years Supervising Skills related to Accounting

TREASURY AND FINANCE SUPERVISOR
Preferably Female, 25-29 years old
Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy
Certified Public Accountant
At least 2-3 years work experience in treasury and cash management functions.
Must have knowledge in Cashflow analysis and preparation.

ACCOUNTING CLERK
Male or Female
Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy
At least 1 year experience in related field of work
Must be computer literate

SECRETARY
Female
Graduate or any 4-year course
Computer Literate
With pleasing personality and good moral character

PPC STAFF
Male
Bachelor's Degree in Industrial or Mechanical Engineering courses
At least 1 year work experience in Production Planning & Control

INVENTORY CLERK
Male
Graduate of 4-year course
At least 1 year experience in reconcile between physical count and record
Must be computer literate

(TO BE ASSIGNED IN QUEZON CITY BRANCH)

Please apply at :

JIC BLDG II 2419 Syquia cor. Calderon Sts., Sta. Ana, Manila 1009
E-mail Address hradmin@junna.com
Telephone no. 563 5508 loc 309

A Progressive Garments Export Manufacturing Company based in Manila has an immediate need of a competent individuals for the position of:

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Qualifications:
* IE graduate or other related courses
* Female, 30 to 45 yrs. Old
* With strong leadership capabilities & people management competency
* Possess good planning skills, a strategic thinker and with good analytical capabilities
* Assertive and result-oriented
* Responsible, honest, trustworthy and hardworking
* With technical knowledge of sewing operations and fair understanding of patternmaking
* Can work under pressure and willing to work long hours as the job demanded
* Familiar with quality control standards of various export buyers
* With at least 5 years actual experience in all aspects of handling production of ladies garments

Please send resume' with recent photograph to:
Personnel Dept.
P.O. BOX 2878, Manila

JIMAC

POS SYSTEM PROVIDER
IMMEDIATE HIRING

SYSTEM SUPPORT
- Either Computer Engineering or Computer Science Courses
- With knowledge in basic PC Trouble shooting, Software Installation and Networking is an advantage.
- Willing to assist client and work on extended hours / weekends and Holidays as needed.
- Dedicated and TEAM player & can handle pressure

PROGRAMMERS
- Either Computer Science or related discipline
- Good in system analysis and design
- Dedicated and hard working with minimal supervision
- Can program in Delphi / Pascal or Visual Basic
- Experience in SQL and Client/Server environment is a must
- TEAM player & can handle pressure

Interested qualified applicants may send their resume with recent photo at the following address or via e-mail

JIMAC, INCORPORATED
HR DEPARTMENT
Penthouse Flr. TC Plaza Building near cor. Cordillera St.
Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Tel. No. 742-6832 / 742-6840 / 742- 6289 / 742-6853
742-6859 and 742-6284 loc. 117
Fax No. 742-6634
e-mail address: hrd@jimac-inc.com

A Private Non-Sectarian Chinese Filipino School
is in need of
Pre-school Teachers
Grade School Teachers
in English, Filipino, Social Studies, Science, Math, Computer and P.E.
High School Teachers
in English, Filipino, Social Studies, Science, Math, Computer and P.E.
and
Licensed Librarians

Applicant must be:
— a graduate of relevant education course from a reputable university (i.e., Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education if the applicant is applying for Pre-School and Grade School teaching position, or Bachelor of Science in Education if the applicant is applying for High School teaching position, or Bachelor of Education in Library Science if the applicant is applying for the position of licensed librarian); and
— dynamic, hardworking and willing to grow with the organization Teaching experience is not necessary but is an advantage. Fresh graduates are welcome. Interested applicants are requested to mail their comprehensive resumé, 4 2x2 photo, photocopy of the transcript of records, service record (if available), certificate of good moral character and a letter of application addressed to:

The School Principal
C.P.O. Box 3956

OFFICE STAFF

Processing Staff & Computer Secretary

1 Female/ 20 to 35 / Mktng / Business Mgt / Comp Sci Psych GRAD

2. Female/ Any course with very good computer knowledge/ Grad / Good English

Domestic Helper Trainer

1. Female / 25 to 40 yrs old / with good overseas experience / Good English / with or without teaching background

CALL 729 2797
TEXT 0920 678 9053
Look for MR. JON

ALL AROUND OFFICE GIRLS

SHORT HAIR
COLLEGE GRAD
FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT
BRING BIO-DATA
3RD FLOOR
GOLD BLDG.
15 ANNAPOLIS ST.
GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN

CREWASIA

QUALITY CREW REQUIRED FOR PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL 62m MEGA YACHTS

MASTER (2)	With Master's License & C O C. Experienced Ship handler; must have excellent English; good attitude and interpersonal skills; Ex Cruise Liner Officer would be ideal; Age limit 40 years
CHIEF OFFICER (3)	At least 2nd Mates License with COC; Good English; interpersonal skills and attitude; Ex Cruise Liner or Yacht experience; Tender driving experience. Age Limit 35 years
CHIEF ENGINEERS (3)	At least 2nd Eng. License with COC; good all round experience of high speed marine diesels: and other systems such as hydraulics; water makers; electrical systems: maintenance; electronics experience would be a plus. Age limit 40 years
ASST. ENGINEERS (3)	At least 3rd Eng. License with COC. Apart from experience with high speed marine diesels must have good all round experience of all Yacht systems plus maintenance of Our Board Engines. Age Limit 35 years.
BOSUN (3)	Well experienced in running a disciplined Filipino Deck Crew; Good English Skills; presentable; experience on Cruise Liners or Yachts a must; Must have COC; Age Limit 35.
CHEFS (3)	With COC; experience in Cruise Liner of Mega Yachts; able to cook and present European; Western; Asian cuisine to the highest standard; able to run a small well fitted galley to the cleanest standard. Age Limit 35
LAUNDRY (3)	Experienced in either 5 star hotels or Cruise Liner/Mega Yachts and can operate all types of Laundry equipment. Well presented and personable. Age Limit 35
IMPORTANT	The following applies to all candidates: • Must be in possession of all necessary valid documents • All positions are for NON SMOKERS only • Good English Skills are a must • Excellent salary and conditions but for those who meet our standards

ELECTRONICS & COMMUNICATIONS ENGINEER

Experienced in all aspects of circuitry, communication systems & shipboard electronic program.

Suite 407, Cebu Holdings, Cardinal Rosales Avenue, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City, Philippines
Tel: ++63-32-2321732 Fax: ++63-32-2320503
E-mail: crewasia@info.com.ph
Website: www.crewasia.ph

THIS AD IS APPROVED BY POEA/MAG-INGAT SA ILLEGAL RECRUITER

DBP Data Center, Inc.

We are a team of committed, dynamic, innovative, competent Information Technology professionals abreast with the fast changing technology, sought after by major government agencies and leading private entities here and abroad. We provide high quality Information Technology services and help the nation in the employment generation through continuous upgrading of manpower skills and research and development.

We are in need of:

SYSTEMS ANALYSTS
- Trained in Structured Systems Analysis and Design.
- Proficient in Visual FoxPro 6 or Visual Basic 6 or Visual Studio.Net
- Minimum 3 years IT work experience

PROGRAMMERS
- Proficient in Visual FoxPro 6 or Visual Basic 6 or ORACLE or FoxPro for DOS or Crystal Report Writer
- Formal training in Visual Basic.Net is an advantage
- Minimum – 1 year IT experience (outside college)
- Those proficient in web configuration, global.asax, assemblies, XML, web services with active involvement in an ASP.Net project - will be given preference

Please submit resume (with detailed employment history; system/s involvement; other IT exposure) references and transcript of records with recent 2x2 photo not later than February 27, 2004 to the:

Human Resource Head
4/F Executive Building Center, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City

A.S. LOUKEN

The Retail Strategist

At A.S. Louken, our people are our single most important asset and our workplace is evident of our great satisfaction of working together. We flourish on the diversity of our people and the wealth of experience and knowledge that we all bring and share. Join our growing team.

Systems Engineer

Reporting to the Country Manager, you will handle IT infrastructure including server, LAN / WAN management, firewall and anti-virus solutions.

Requirements:
- Degree in the field of Computer Engineering, Computer Management or Information Systems.
- 3 - 5 years relevant experience
- Able to implement Linux server solutions (Apache, qMail, mySQL, Tomcat)
- Able to administer server / client anti-virus and firewall solutions
- MCSE certification or Windows server experience advantageous

Web Programmers (Senior / Junior)

Your prime responsibilities will be to develop the company's mission critical applications and solutions.

Basic Requirements:
- Degree in the field of Computer Management or Information Systems
- At least 1 and 3 years relevant experience for junior and senior positions respectively.
- Adept in Java web programming (JSP, SQL, MVC architecture)

Senior Programmer Requirements:
- Experience in leading teams in software development.
- Skilled in system and database design.
- Linux based Tomcat and mySQL preferred.

We offer competitive compensation package to the selected candidates. Only qualified applicants will be notified.

These are all urgent requirements!
To expedite processing, please email your resumés to:
eric@aslouken.com
on or before Feb 20, 2004
Visit our website: www.aslouken.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!

COMPUTER OPERATOR

- ✓ Female
- ✓ Familiar with different MS OS and MS Office
- ✓ Knowledgeable with minor Software, Hardware and LAN troubleshooting
- ✓ With high analytical skills
- ✓ Not more than 26 years old
- ✓ With pleasing personality
- * Proficiency in MS Access is a **PLUS**

Contact Persons:
Dess or Leandro
896-0970, 896-0742/44

We are a progressive marketing and promotions company specializing in below-the-line advertising, promotional and merchandising efforts as well as events management. We have satellite offices nationwide (Pampanga, Cabuyao, Naga, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo, Davao, General Santos and Cagayan de Oro).

We need the following competent individuals to work with our clients on their marketing support activities from planning, project implementation up to the analysis and evaluation of the results thereof.

SALES and PROMO COORDINATOR
(Supervisory Position)
- College graduate
- Male/Female, below 27 years old
- At least 2 years work experience
- Experience with consumer products preferred
- Familiar with trade marketing activities
- With keen eye to details
- Computer literate

(*Please indicate your area preference, Great Manila Area, Iloilo, Pampanga, Cabuyao)

PROMO GIRLS
- Female, at least 5 feet and 2 inches, below 27 years old
- At least high school graduate or college level
- With pleasing personality
- Good interpersonal and communication skills

ACCOUNTING CLERK
- Male/Female, below 27 years old
- Fresh graduates and entry-level applicants are encouraged to apply.
- Computer literate
- Multi-tasker

Please send your application letter, comprehensive resumé, 2x2 picture and transcript of records at:

DANCERG MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS SERVICES
5th Floor, FCC Building
7494 Santillan Street, Makati City

Legacie and Treasures Inc.

WANTING TO MIGRATE
(USA, AUSTRALIA, MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE)?
But lacking the means to do so?

Can you say yes to the following:

1. Are you willing to spend time and effort to learn a new skill in a direct selling business?
2. Would you like to be a part of an industry that is projected to reach $1.0 Trillion in the next decade?
3. Would you be willing and available to attend a free orientation seminar?

If yes, call Grace 373-5494 between 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday for details.
For Provincial queries, please text in the following format: Text your Name + age + profession + location + comment 0917-5232233

Email address: cocosam@uplink.com.ph

THE COMPANY
Handles exclusive marketing and distribution of high quality building products in the country, representing a large timber manufacturer in New Zealand.

IN SEARCH OF
Sales development representatives who will promote products and build goodwill with decision makers and influencers in the field of construction.

Aggressive individuals who are interested to participate in establishing a solid core of satisfied customers that will support and benefit from the use of the company's high quality products.

Individuals who enjoy the challenge of participating in pioneering efforts and sharing the vision of a team's eventual success.

Individuals who enjoy interacting with people; has the ability to present ideas in a manner that is clearly understood and deeply appreciated.

A college degree holder. The course is not as important as the individual's desire to learn and to succeed at work, and contribute to the achievement of the team's goals.

APPLICATIONS
If you feel you have what we are looking for, please bring your resumé and see us at: Unit 1209 Mega Plaza Bldg., ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City or call Chat at tel. 687-7624.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

SALES SUPERVISORS
- male or female, preferably graduates of architecture, civil engineering or interior design
- honest, hardworking, with good communication skills
- preferably with experience in marketing in any of the following fields:
  - Construction industry, specifically to architects, contractors, developers and builders
  - Glass and aluminum building components
  - Plumbing & bathroom fixtures and fittings

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR
- preferably but not necessarily a CPA; computer literate
- with auditing experience and exposure to companies with multiple product lines
- ability to speak Chinese, an advantage

COMPUTER PROGRAMMER
- male or female, a graduate of Computer Science
- adept in object-oriented programming
- preferably proficient in Delphi 6
- a fast-learner

Send your Bio-Data with recent photo to
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Box # KA-009-04 TE
Ground Floor, Trinity Bldg.,
#636 TM Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila
or to email: daveb822@hotmail.com

YU ENG KAO

Electrical Supply and Hardware, Inc.
Importer • Distributor • Wholesaler

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

SALES ENGINEERS
- Graduates of Engineering, preferably Electrical
- Proficient in communication skills in English and Filipino
- Effective skills in interpersonal relations
- Confident, outgoing personality, and street-smart in spotting business opportunities
- Male or Female, 21-35 yrs. old

Successful candidate can look forward to a career development in the company with sufficient training opportunities and recognition for worthwhile achievements.

Apply personally at 2209 Jose Abad Santos Avenue near Batangas St., Tondo, Manila with bio-data sheets, 1" x 1" ID photos and transcript of records or call 251-2881
e-mail: yek@mindgate.net

POEA 722-1144
24-HR HOTLINES 722-1155

Athena e-Services is a leader in outsourced Information Technology services. We offer solutions for clients in the field of print publication, litigation support, real estate, and the medical and health sciences profession, to name a few. With the company's requirements for immediate expansion, we invite highly skilled and motivated people to be part of our team.

ABSTRACTORS/DOCUMENT ANALYSTS
- Bachelor's/College degree preferably in English or Communication Arts
- High analytical and comprehension skills
- Must possess effective written and oral communication skills
- Keen to details
- Computer literate with typing speed of at least 35 wpm and 95% accuracy
- Willing to work on shifting schedule

Qualified individuals are requested to hand carry or send their resume, transcript of record, SSS# (E-1 form) and latest photo to:

ATHENA e-SERVICES, CORP.
Human Resources Department
Athena e-Plaza Building, Eastwood City,
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bagumbayan, Q.C. 1110
E-mail: jobs@athenaeservices.com

COMPUTER CRAFT CORPORATION

Position:
- **Sales Representative**

Job Description:
- Will be tasked to market the company's business software solutions for accounting and payroll across different industries and different SME's.

Qualifications:
- Male or Female, not more than 28 years old
- College graduate, computer literate
- Good in verbal and written communication skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills with the ability to communicate at all levels
- A flexible, proactive, can do attitude with a strong sense of urgency
- Professional and presentable, with an out-going personality
- Prior experience in the IT industry is an advantage
- Willing to work extended hours and go on field work
- Aggressive, honest and results oriented

Apply at : **COMPUTER CRAFT CORPORATION**
9631 KAMAGONG ST.
BGY. SAN ANTONIO, MAKATI CITY
TEL. 8993959 LOCAL 126

LOOK FOR WILSON F. CHAN

OFFICE STAFF

Processing Staff & Computer Secretary

1 Female/ 20 to 36 / Mktng / Business Mgt / Comp Sci Psych GRAD

2. Female/ Any course with very good computer knowledge/ Grad / Good English

Domestic Helper Trainer

1. Female / 25 to 40 yrs old / with good overseas experience / Good English / with or without teaching background

CALL 729 2797
TEXT 0920 678 9053
Look for MR. JON

ALL AROUND OFFICE GIRLS

SHORT HAIR
COLLEGE GRAD
FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT
BRING BIO-DATA
3RD FLOOR
GOLD BLDG.
15 ANNAPOLIS ST.
GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN

CREW ASIA

QUALITY CREW REQUIRED FOR PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL 62m MEGA YACHTS

MASTER (2)	With Master's License & C O C. Experienced Ship handler; must have excellent English; good attitude and interpersonal skills; Ex Cruise Liner Officer would be ideal; Age limit 40 years
CHIEF OFFICER (3)	At least 2nd Mates License with COC; Good English; interpersonal skills and attitude; Ex Cruise Liner or Yacht experience; Tender driving experience. Age Limit 35 years
CHIEF ENGINEERS (3)	At least 2nd Eng. License with COC; good all round experience of high speed marine diesels: and other systems such as hydraulics; water makers; electrical systems: maintenance; electronics experience would be a plus. Age limit 40 years
ASST. ENGINEERS (3)	At least 3rd Eng. License with COC. Apart from experience with high speed marine diesels must have good all round experience of all Yacht systems plus maintenance of Our Board Engines. Age Limit 35 years.
BOSUN (3)	Well experienced in running a disciplined Filipino Deck Crew: Good English Skills; presentable; experience on Cruise Liners or Yachts a must: Must have COC; Age Limit 35.
CHEFS (3)	With COC; experience in Cruise Liner of Mega Yachts; able to cook and present European; Western; Asian cuisine to the highest standard; able to run a small well fitted galley to the cleanest standard. Age Limit 35
LAUNDRY (3)	Experienced in either 5 star hotels or Cruise Liner/Mega Yachts and can operate all types of Laundry equipment. Well presented and personable. Age Limit 35
IMPORTANT	The following applies to all candidates: • Must be in possession of all necessary valid documents • All positions are for NON SMOKERS only • Good English Skills are a must • Excellent salary and conditions but for those who meet our standards

ELECTRONICS & COMMUNICATIONS ENGINEER

Experienced in all aspects of circuitry, communication systems & shipboard electronic program.

Suite 407, Cebu Holdings, Cardinal Rosales Avenue, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City, Philippines
Tel: ++63-32-2321732 Fax: ++63-32-2320503
E-mail: crewasia@info.com.ph
Website: www.crewasia.ph

THIS AD IS APPROVED BY POEA/MAG-INGAT SA ILLEGAL RECRUITER

DBP Data Center, Inc.

We are a team of committed, dynamic, innovative, competent Information Technology professionals abreast with the fast changing technology, sought after by major government agencies and leading private entities here and abroad. We provide high quality Information Technology services and help the nation in the employment generation through continuous upgrading of manpower skills and research and development.

We are in need of:

SYSTEMS ANALYSTS
- Trained in Structured Systems Analysis and Design.
- Proficient in Visual FoxPro 6 or Visual Basic 6 or Visual Studio.Net
- Minimum 3 years IT work experience

PROGRAMMERS
- Proficient in Visual FoxPro 6 or Visual Basic 6 or ORACLE or FoxPro for DOS or Crystal Report Writer
- Formal training in Visual Basic.Net is an advantage
- Minimum – 1 year IT experience (outside college)
- Those proficient in web configuration, global.asax, assemblies, XML, web services with active involvement in an ASP.Net project - will be given preference

Please submit resume (with detailed employment history; system/s involvement; other IT exposure) references and transcript of records with recent 2x2 photo not later than February 27, 2004 to the:

Human Resource Head
4/F Executive Building Center, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City

A.S. LOUKEN

The Retail Strategist

At *A.S. Louken*, our people are our single most important asset and our workplace is evident of our great satisfaction of working together. We flourish on the diversity of our people and the wealth of experience and knowledge that we all bring and share. Join our growing team.

Systems Engineer

Reporting to the Country Manager, you will handle IT infrastructure including server, LAN / WAN management, firewall and anti-virus solutions.

Requirements:
- **Degree in the field of Computer Engineering, Computer Management or Information Systems.**
- **3 - 5 years relevant experience**
- **Able to implement Linux server solutions (Apache, qMail, mySQL, Tomcat)**
- **Able to administer server / client anti-virus and firewall solutions**
- **MCSE certification or Windows server experience advantageous**

Web Programmers (Senior / Junior)

Your prime responsibilities will be to develop the company's mission critical applications and solutions.

Basic Requirements:
- **Degree in the field of Computer Management or Information Systems**
- **At least 1 and 3 years relevant experience for junior and senior positions respectively.**
- **Adept in Java web programming (JSP, SQL, MVC architecture)**

Senior Programmer Requirements:
- **Experience in leading teams in software development.**
- **Skilled in system and database design.**
- **Linux based Tomcat and mySQL preferred.**

We offer competitive compensation package to the selected candidates.
Only qualified applicants will be notified.

These are all urgent requirements!
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sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

Cindy Kurleto
Sweetheart of the Season

The half-Austrian, half-Filipino stunner has taken Pinoy showbiz by storm, while remaining refreshingly candid—and managing to dodge touchy questions about her love life

By Eric S. Caruncho
Photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento

OTES to self:

1. When writing about Cindy Kurleto, avoid hackneyed phrases like "babe," "hot babe," "ultramegababe," "stud magnet," etc.

2. Bring up rumored "honeymoon in Vienna" with rumored "boyfriend" Jericho Rosales.

3. Try not to drool during interview

Well, two out of three ain't bad.

Just minutes before the interview, Cindy's manager called to ask if it would be possible not to bring up the Vienna thing. After all, he said, Cindy had laid it all to rest in a press conference the week before, in which she'd denied that Jericho was her boyfriend. I said I'd leave that up to Cindy.

To be honest, I could give less of a flying flick about that showbiz BS. I still have trouble telling Kristine apart from Tanya, and as for Jericho, those guys (Echo, Piolo, Dingdong—who the hell dreams up these names?) all look and sound the same to me.

But Cindy... Let me put it this way: I have strained my neck taking a second look at those eye-catching billboard ads featuring Cindy resplendent in her frilly So-en underthings, all aglow with youth and vitality. Damn near brought a tear to my eye.

"I can tell your brain is working at trying to get to that topic I don't want to talk about," says Cindy, minutes into the interview. *"Kawawa ka naman."* (Poor you.)

"Let's put it like this—I have no boyfriend," she says. "I have close friends, but no boyfriend."

Mentally, I could hear

To page Q2

The Golden Pair
by Lorenzo Z. Manguiat, *p.3*

Finding a Match for Mar Roxas
by Fe B. Zamora, *p.5*

Sharon's Man
by Tinna S. Bonifacio, *p.8*

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sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

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Sweetheart eason

By Eric S. Caruncho
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Exotic, but still an outsider

Cindy

...from page 1

her large male fan base—the same guys who voted her "third sexiest woman in the world" in FHM Magazine's 2003 survey—heave a collective sigh of relief. (Sorry to burst your bubble, guys, but maybe she's just telling you what you want to hear.)

As for the so-called "honeymoon" in Vienna: "I have no hard feelings about that whatsoever, because my mother taught me not to hurt anyone, and in all honesty, I haven't done any of those things. Whatever guilty finger they want to point at me is fine, it doesn't bother me at all."

So, once more for the record: Cindy Kurleto is not the evil foreign-born mestiza who stole studmuffin Jericho Rosales from *byutyus* Kristine Hermosa, thus causing the breakup of local showbiz's most successful love team since Guy and Pip, and prompting tons of hate mail from diehard Kristine-Echo fans to land on Cindy's dressing room table. (Jericho got his share of hate mail too, from Cindy's fans.)

Unless, of course, it's a conspiracy hatched by showbiz hacks and flacks to keep the Kristine-Echo tandem commercially viable: a break-up, make-up scenario, with Cindy conveniently painted as the *contrabida*, would spell big bucks at the box office, and boost their sagging popularity.

I leave that up to you regular viewers of "The Buzz" to ponder.

Meanwhile, Cindy has moved on to bigger and better things. She has signed a two-year, four-picture contract with Viva, the first of which is to be Chito Roño's much-awaited remake of Mars Ravelo's perennial "Dyesebel," currently in preproduction. Well, if anyone can make a fishtail look good...

"But I don't see the necessity of going bold," Cindy hastens to add. Awwww...

"It's not that I don't want to do sexy roles or parts, but I don't want to undress. I don't want to portray the act of lovemaking as if I'm endorsing it. It doesn't look natural onscreen...Eating, drinking and lovemaking should be a natural act. I don't want the endorsing factor because there are so many youngsters watching."

Of course, as the mermaid Dyesebel, Cindy would have to go topless, albeit covered by strategically-placed strands of hair.

"I'm not at all afraid of that," she says. "In Europe there are several beaches where everyone goes topless, so it's not a topic for me at all. I know it might be a topic here, and I might scare away some male suitors or friends by going topless. But if you are a strong woman and you portray something in a natural way, then other women might think, 'It's not that bad after all,' and give some more liberation to female Filipinos."

Cindy's candor is refreshing, as is her unique English syntax, which comes from the fact that her first language happens to be German.

Cynthia Cristina Verdilla Kurleto was born on April 21, 1981 in Vienna, Austria, the only child of Faustina Verdilla, a Filipino nurse, and Austrian Friedrich Kurleto. Her parents broke up when she was four, and Cindy was brought up by her mother in the tight-knit Filipino community in Vienna. From all accounts, it wasn't easy being of mixed race in Austria.

"Believe it or not, discrimination happens there every other 10 minutes," she says. "In a way that's not violent, but in a joking, charming way. But it doesn't matter if it's joking or charming, it's there all the time when you stand in line to buy bread or to buy Vienna sausage on the street. Person first class, person second class. You feel like you want to fight, but you better not, better to keep your mouth shut and behave, because you're a foreigner in that country—that's what they make you feel all the time."

Things are a lot easier in the Philippines where her exotic Eurasian features are a marketable commodity, but Cindy doesn't lose sight of the fact that she remains an outsider.

"Outsiders here are treated better than outsiders there, even though some pre-judgement is still happening," she says. "But I think that's because I'm in showbiz and somehow a public person. If I just had a normal job somewhere here in the Philippines then I guess being an outsider would be much easier.

"That's the problem that every half-breed has to either live with or fight all his or her life," she adds. "Because you're not at home here, you're not at home there, you're always an outsider. But I think it builds your character in a way, gives you more strength."

In 2001, just before 9/11, Cindy came to the Philippines at the suggestion of her mother, partly to rediscover her Filipino roots, but also to escape from a cut-and-dried life that she felt was closing in on her.

"I wanted to escape because everything was too serious and too depressing," she says. "In Europe, you already have everything at an early age: school finished, you have a job, your first car, you're already renting an apartment. You go to school, you go to office, you go home. I was like, this is it? Is this how it's going to be for the next 40 years? I had the strong urge to look for something else. I had the feeling that there had to be something more."

She got more than she bargained for, not at all surprising since a girl like Cindy kind of stands out. While visiting her relatives in Legazpi, Albay, she started receiving offers to model, one thing led to another, and before she knew it, she had a hot modeling and show business career. Apart from being the image model for So-en and Lee Jeans, Cindy has also been doing commercial modeling assignments in Thailand and Indonesia. Last year she did 14 magazine covers, and there was that FHM ranking. (She was, in fact, scheduled to compete in the international Bikini World contest and the Bb. Pilipinas beauty pageant, but her father nixed both at the last minute.) She also landed a regular TV gig on "MTB" co-hosting the show with pals Aubrey Miles and Mickey Ferriols, and occasional stints on MTV. It was a roller coaster ride, but a roller coaster has ups and downs.

In April 2002 (on Cindy's birthday), her mother died from an aneurysm. Cindy arrived in Vienna too late to see her. Months later, the loss still caused her to burst into tears, even during on-cam interviews.

"Things are more defined now," she says. "After you lose one parent, or even both—it happens to everyone, eventually—you try to redefine everything around you, just to be more secure on your own."

In some ways, she admits, dealing with her mother's death is easier now—one and a half years later. In other ways, she says, it's still hard. But, she says, things are starting to look up.

"I have a good feeling about this year, she says. "I think I'm going to be happier this year."

Showbiz success is a welcome frisson, she admits, but that's really not what Cindy Kurleto is all about.

"I didn't come to the Philippines to be a big *artista*," she says. "I came here to find simplicity in the province. Even right now, what I feel easy with is owning nothing, just one backpack, no responsibilities, no contracts, just walking on the beach, looking at the sky. And maybe just a little, little room—as big as this room—that would make me really, really happy.

"After a while," she adds, "if showbiz gets too loud and too busy, I just might search for that simplicity again."

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'SUNGDU-AN' EXHIBIT The Committee on Visual Arts of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts opens the national exhibit "Sungdu-an 3," a four-phase project gathering the contemporary art of the country in one travelling show, at the Main Gallery of the CCP at 6 p.m. on Feb. 17. "Resistance" by Rameer A. Tawasil will be part of the exhibit which will run until March 25. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

City Morning

I woke from a dream of sharks in ocean water:
turquoise, emerald, ultramarine.
I could taste you.

Overslept again. 9:30 AM, just getting up.
Dragged myself to the bathroom.
My piss didn't smell like coconuts.

Lumbered to the bakery on the far corner.
I knew they'd have run out of pan de sal.
Wondered what I'd have to settle for.

Tricycles, buses, jeepneys, mud
on the street from four days' rain.
Bought some coco jam to save the moment.

Remember the afternoon on the island,
sitting around, taking a break from packing?
I'd been getting the words to "Vincent"
wrong, even in recitative.
You spoke them for me, flat and casual,
and I finished for you, intoning the refrain

before bursting into song.
You answered simply, "Yes."
Our laughter tumbled down the beach to the far side,

bounced off the warm cliffs, and disappeared
into the jungle that was slowly reclaiming
the patch of paradise you lured out of it.

It's starting to rain and the grumbling
of the traffic is building.
I'm in another place.

The island is the other place, somewhere
That's harder and harder to get to.
I'm waiting for my coffee to cool.

Vicente G. Groyon III

The **Sunday Inquirer Magazine** accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <poetry_sim@inquirer.com.ph>

All in the Game

By Lorenzo Z. Manguiat

RANDY HORMILLOSA

IN ANY given day, it's not unusual for couple Dax Alberto Morfe and Margarita "Margie" Bonifacio to kick the living daylights out of each other. But then again, the two are Southeast Asian (SEA) Games gold medalists in Tae Kwon Do and their antics are not so much love play nor a lovers' quarrel but hard practice.

The Pair

Dax Morfe and Margie Bonifacio, two of the Philippines' SEA games Tae Kwon Do gold medalists, share a burning love for their sport—and for each other

The pair journeyed together towards athletic excellence amidst the struggles, frustrations and heartbreaks that go with their chosen sport. Somehow, it seemed that the two were destined for the same fate.

Both started out relatively late in Tae Kwon Do, Morfe as a third year high school student and Bonifacio as a college freshman. Nonetheless, their rapid improvement in the martial art allowed them to be part of the national squad in a short span of time, around 1997. They already knew each other back then, but their friendship soon blossomed into something more once Dax returned to the fold in 2000.

The 2001 SEA Games in Malaysia would be the first major tournament where the two competed together.

Morfe went up against Vietnam's Phan Tan Dat in the semifinals of the men's middleweight division. Towards the end of the first round, Morfe and Phan unleashed vicious kicks at the same time. Unfortunately for Morfe, his right shin guard got twisted at that very moment, and Phat's kick shattered his vulnerable shin upon impact.

"I immediately fell to the mat and felt no support on my right leg. I couldn't get up so I went straight to the hospital," recalls Morfe.

A day after Morfe's unfortunate accident, Bonifacio fought for the gold against Malaysian Che Chew Chan in the finals of the women's heavyweight category. Bonifacio had previously claimed the bronze medal in 1997 and the silver in 1999, thus she was already primed to clinch her first gold.

It was a tense match for both fighters and it did not help ease the pressure that it was also the last fight in the Tae Kwon Do competitions.

With the raucous crowd cheering and jeering every move, the two combatants slugged it out for four brutal rounds. The fight ended up in a 5-5 draw, which meant that that decision would be based on superiority in terms of number of kicks thrown, number of kicks landed and most importantly, aggressiveness. Aware that she was ahead on all counts, Bonifacio felt confident about winning. Then the chief referee raised Che's hand.

"I burst into tears right after the match. I was robbed!" exclaims Bonifacio. "I was clearly more aggressive and had more kicks. Even some of the Malaysians knew it and even apologized and told me that I deserved to win."

While Morfe would return back to Manila in crutches with a broken shin, Bonifacio went home feeling dispirited but definitely unbowed.

The road to recovery would not be easy for both.

Morfe had to have a metal rod inserted in his leg with pins to keep it in place and had to stay inactive for four months while a cloud of uncertainty hung over his Tae Kwon Do career. "I didn't know if I could come back, but I was determined to do so," says Morfe.

The finance graduate from La Salle managed to get back into international competition, participating in the Korea Open in April 2002. Nevertheless, he did not fully recover in time for the 2002 Asian Games in October.

On the other hand, Bonifacio had to deal with the psychological trauma that hounded her after the controversial setback in Malaysia.

They might have confronted their respective demons alone, but each supported each other during those trying times.

"It definitely helped that we both understood what we went through as athletes and how we felt. That connection was important," says Bonifacio, an Ateneo graduate. "We psyche up and motivate each other," she adds.

Two years pass after their respective losses and the scene shifts to Ho Chi Minh City, where each sought revenge and redemption.

Bonifacio competed as a middleweight and made it all the way back to the finals where she faced a familiar foe, Che. Determined to vindicate herself, she dominated her Malaysian adversary and won easily, 5-3. Her mission fulfilled, she watched as Morfe had his turn.

Like his girlfriend, Morfe also encountered his nemesis, Phan. But unlike Bonifacio, whose match was relatively easy, Morfe was engaged in a heated battle with his Vietnamese foe.

Phan was slightly ahead in scoring, but Morfe had a chance as the hometown fighter had resorted to dirty tactics, which earned him several *kyonggos* or half-point deductions.

"I somehow knew I had a chance after he was given a fourth *kyonggo* in the third round," says Morfe.

After the final round, Chan was up 5-4, but the *kyonggos* altered the score and Morfe won the match, 4-3. The Vietnamese jin refused to shake Morfe's hand.

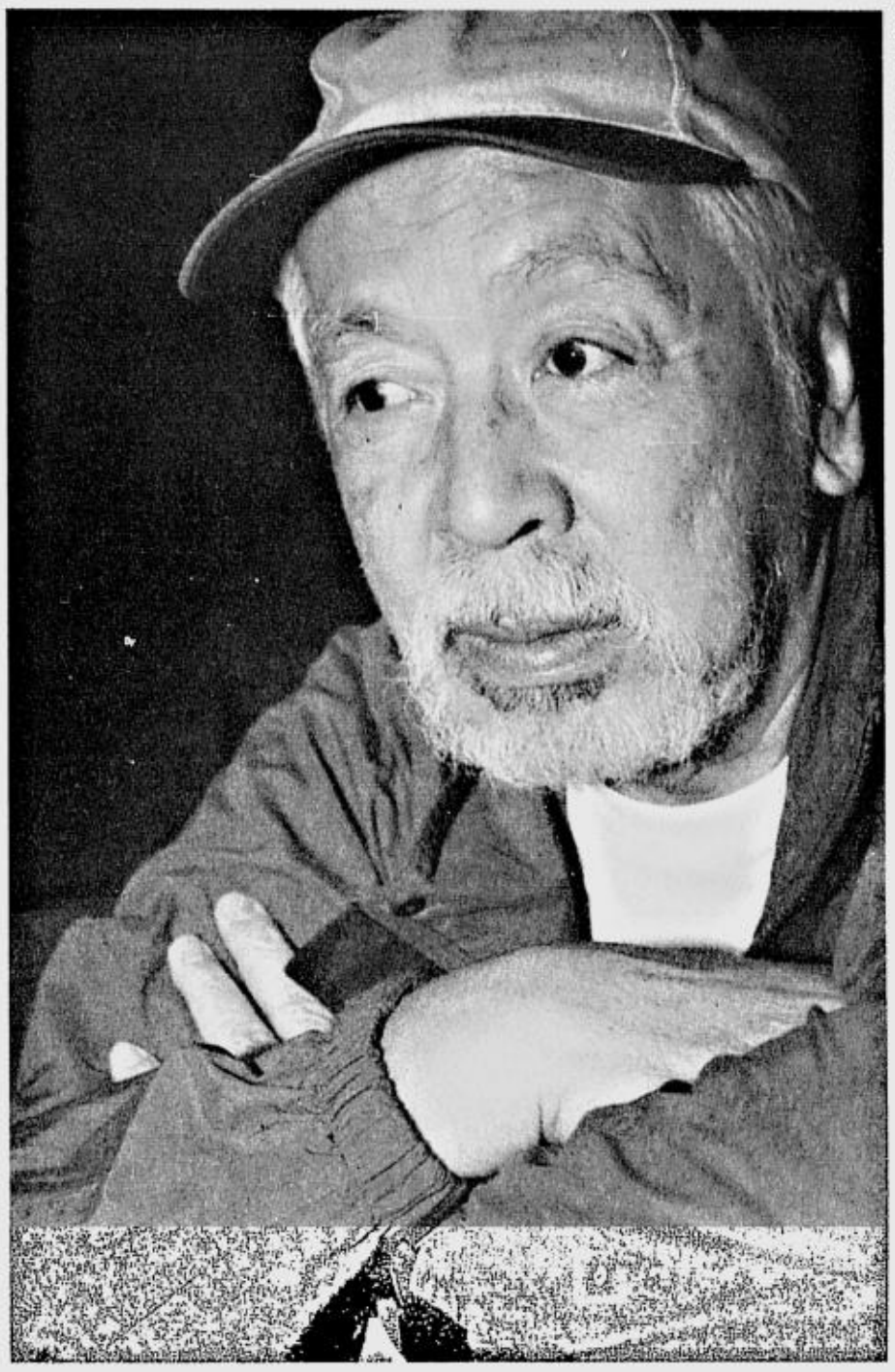
If anything, their joint victory augurs well for the couple's love story. More than ever, Dax Morfe and Margie Bonifacio know that they would always be together, in moments of gloom and triumph. Q

Theater Tales

By Floy Quintos
Photographs by August dela Cruz

His Affair of the Art

As he marks his golden year as a theater director, the venerable Tony Mabesa remains enamored with the stage. Just look at the passion he's pouring into his latest production of a formidable O'Neill classic



AT THE ripe, golden age of 69, Tony Mabesa is having a wild and wondrous affair. With a group of boozing, down-on-their luck losers. In, of all places, a sleazy bar where none of the habitues has got any money to pay for the drinks. The venerable director is nursing their pipe dreams, soothing their shattered egos and broken souls with the attentive solicitousness he has given all previous lovers. In many ways, this grand old man of the theater is the perfect lover. He listens quietly, loves unconditionally and makes no judgment. And best of all, he knows when to let the lover go.

Mabesa directs colleague Joel Lamangan in his latest stage outing

The amour of the moment is Eugene O'Neill's "The Iceman Cometh," perhaps the talkiest and most difficult of the American master's works. In it, a group of shaky drunks go through a roller-coaster, three-hour ride of human misery and frustration. Holding on to their pipe dreams, they grasp—and then just as suddenly, reject—all hope of salvation. This is one play not for the faint-hearted or for those addicted to saccharine moments and happy endings. O'Neill is stark, brutal and uncompromising in his view of the human condition. And unapologetic in his thesis that, sometimes human failure, numbing as it may be, can be a pretty comfortable state.

And Tony loves O'Neill's quirky, defeated cast. As he coaches actors like Joel Lamangan, Richard Cunanan, Spanky Manikan, Edwin Decenteceo, Gamaliel Viray, Alex Cortez and the Dulaang UP ensemble into embracing the misery of their characters, one is reminded that Tony Mabesa is most challenged by the difficult love affair.

His choices over the years have always shown how deeply Tony relishes the challenge of loving and interpreting the difficult. Born in Los Baños, Laguna to a "no-nonsense" scientist father, he had set out for UP Diliman to enrol in a pre-med course, but instead found himself deeply involved in the UP Dramatic Club under the late National Artist Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero. Even as he finished his agriculture degree, he staged the first productions of "West Side Story" and "Flower Drum Song" in the Philippines. He went on to take his master's degree in theater at the University of California at Los Angeles, and got the chance to work with the likes of Jessica Tandy and Sir Tyrone Guthrie at the Guthrie Theater, all the time taking on odd jobs as a dorm counsellor and house manager. It was a creatively stimulating time, Mabesa would say of those years in a previous interview. "Imagine an entire semester on Ibsen! I became so enamored with the classics, I was already planning what to do when I came home!"

He would go on to get married, have a son and serve as a teaching fellow at the University of Hawaii before returning to the Philippines after his marriage ended. In 1975, he joined the University of the Philippines faculty, established the undergraduate degree program in theater arts, and the following year, founded Dulaang Unibersidad ng Pilipinas (DUP), the theater company under the Department of Speech, Communication and Theater Arts. In between, he has acted on stage, TV and film. He received a Centennial Artist Award from the Cultural Center of the Philippines in 1998 for his theater work.

Mabesa's last major production was the full-length kabuki classic, "Kanjincho," in cooperation with the Japan Foundation. He could have done only a Filipino translation. But he wanted a faithful replication, and insisted that his all-Filipino cast, perform in archaic, 17th century Japanese, learned by rote. When I asked him why, he shrugged his shoulders and, like Sir Edmund Hillary preparing to ascend Everest, replied, "Because it's there."

Flippant as it may seem, the remark is less about self-indulgence than it is about wanting to explore facets of the human character that don't get much airplay on TV and the movies. Or even in a theater scene fast succumbing to the commercialism of Broadway imports and musicals. The fact that most of his work over the past 28 years has been done for Dulaang UP has given Tony the academic freedom to choose the plays from the world repertoire that have uncompromising themes. Such as the assertion of one's humanity in Ibsen and Chekhov, the darkness of duplicity in Shakespeare and David Henry Hwang, the need to succumb to total abandon in Gorky and Moliere.

It's allowed him, too, to interpret the visions of Filipino playwrights. In "Frustrations," he gave Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero's celebration of the dysfunctional family a loving and nostalgic treatment. In "Toreng Garing," he gave Domingo Landicho's cast of academicians earthy sex lives.

Working with Tony on my own plays has taught me about how to love a work. He commits fully to material, seeking to understand each and every line and nuance. Then he tweaks and teases it, giving rein to his own interpretation. He has cajoled me into rewriting and editing precious passages simply because they "won't work onstage." Then finally, he looks long and critically, as every lover should, calmly accepting the flaws and yet working ceaselessly to highlight the best qualities. It is the kind of a loving that very few human beings can take. But one that allows for every work of art to shine more brilliantly.

With this year, and with this production of O'Neill's "Iceman," Tony marks half a century spent as a Man of the Theater. It has been 50 years of loving the theater. A lifetime of devotion. And if the generations of actors, students and theater people may sometimes prove to be forgetful, there is always the consolation that he has let them fly on their own wings. And very stoically, moved on. On his own. To seek the next play. The next big love affair. Q

"The Iceman Cometh" opens on February 18 at 6 p.m., and will run until March 7, 2004 at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, UP Diliman, Quezon City. For ticket inquiries, reservations and informtaion, call DUP at 920-5301 local 6441 or 926-1349.

LoveNotes

By Joe D' Mango

Waiting for a Sign

It hurts. Now I'm scared of falling in love. It's hard facing my problem all alone

Dear Joe,

My name is Beverly and I'm based in Guam. I had this suitor, Miguel, whom I liked but left back home in the Philippines. Then I met Mike. Mike was really a nice guy, but we were just friends until we started to talk more often. He would call me long distance and in one of those phone calls, he asked me to be his girl. Without hesitation, I said yes.

Then Miguel called me and said he missed me. I became so confused that I asked God that night to give me a sign, with Mike being represented by a white rose and Miguel, a red one. Then, in the dark, I remembered that the shirt I was wearing to sleep had a red rose. So I told myself I'd choose Miguel. The next day, in the light of day, I saw that my shirt had a white rose instead. So it hit me that it's really Mike whom I should choose.

Time passed and I finally met Mike's parents, who treated me like I was a part of the family even though they were pure Chinese and I was not. A few months later, Mike told me that he had to go to New Jersey for a vacation and that he planned to study there after finishing high school in the Philippines. I said I'll support him.

Before he left for his vacation, Mike had to attend summer class. On the last day of his class, he went to Batangas with his friends. When I called to check on him, he screamed at me and said that I was getting on his nerves.

Then he left for Jersey. We started to fight and before he came back to the Philippines, we broke up. I couldn't stop crying because I really loved him. I began doing stupid things, like failing most of my subjects.

Then I learned that he had a new girl. It just killed me, so I kept taking pills until I had an overdose.

Mike was my first, Joe. What

Jacques Borlaza, Fonz Deza, Joel Lamangan, Allan Palileo and Bonggoy Manahan in "Iceman"

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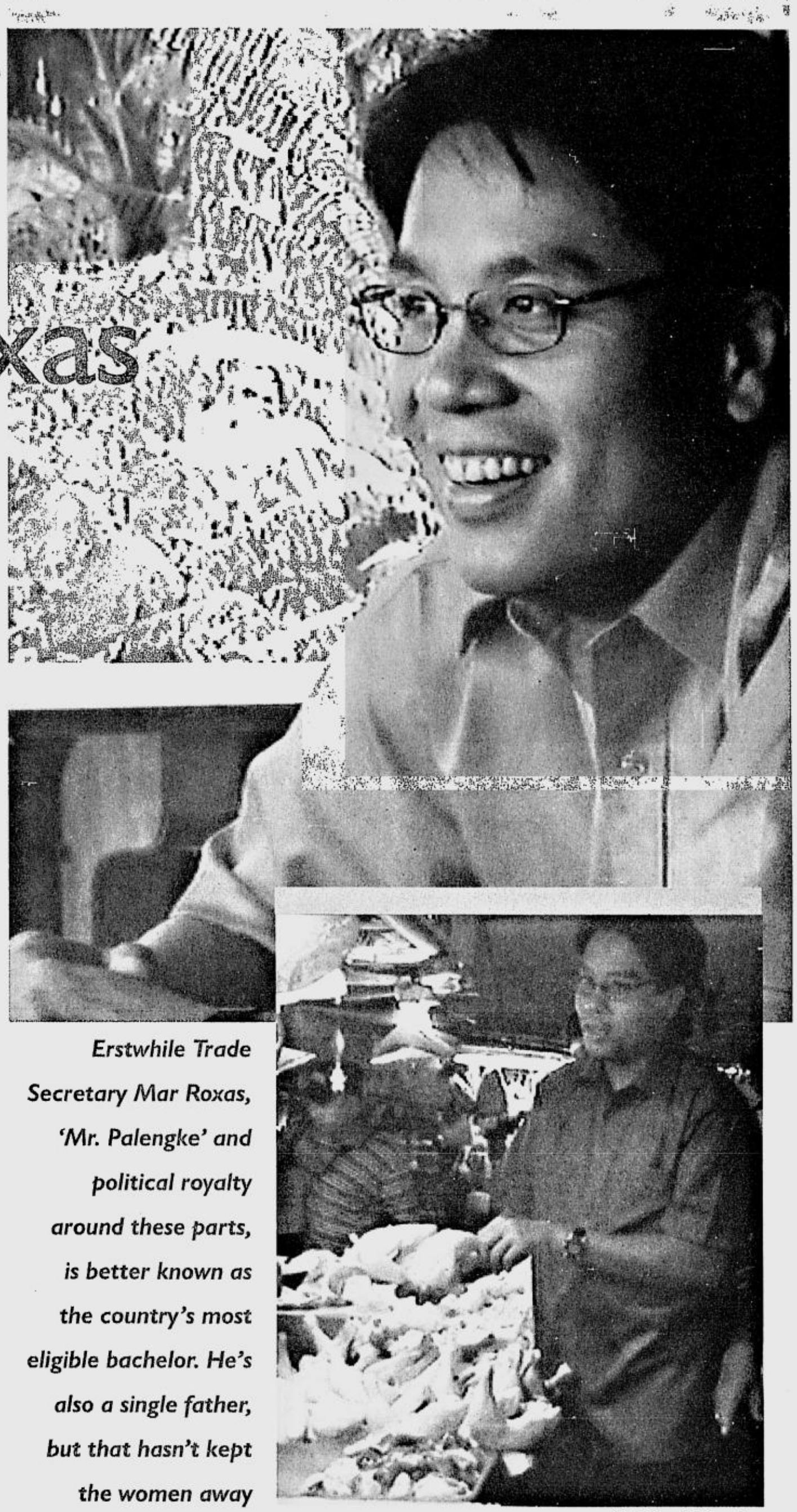
Text and photographs by Fe B. Zamora

Finding a Match for Mar Roxas



IMAGINE a damsel in distress named Kristina Bernadette Cojuangco Aquino being rescued from her abusive partner by a knight-in-shining armor named Manuel Araneta Roxas III. Mar slays the abuser and rides off into the sunset with Kris, and together they live happily ever after.

"That's the fairy tale we would love to see," chuckles Roxas' cousin Coy Quiroz. "Imagine the daughter of Ninoy and (former President) Cory Aquino married to the son of (former Senator Gerry) and Judy Roxas!"

Indeed, what a couple Kris and Mar would make. Both the elder Aquino and Roxas were stalwarts of the Liberal Party in the '60s and '70s, and political foes of President Ferdinand Marcos. The union of political pedigree, power and wealth would have been the stuff of mythmaking, but it remains wistful thinking for now. Both have admitted to being committed, she to her love child Joshua by Phillip Salvador, and he to his senatorial bid.

Love and marriage for recently resigned Trade secretary Mar Roxas would have to wait. That is, if he can help it. Because apparently, kibitzers and supporters around Mar have found him a match: the mysterious K5.

"Where's K5? We thought she would be here," a group of teachers wondered as the 46-year-old bachelor waded among students at the Calamba City National High School recently. Hearing about the query, Mar quips, "Blame Kabayan (Senator Noli de Castro)!"

Both De Castro and Roxas are running under GMA's K4 party (for Koalisyon ng Katapatan at Karanasan sa Kinabukasan), but Roxas, his broadcaster colleague once pointed out, has an edge because he has a "K5."

But Mar is not talking, countering all queries with a sheepish grin. The grapevine has a name though: radio-TV personality Korina Sanchez. Says one media practitioner close to the senatorial bet: "I'm not sure what it is but having seen them together, I think it's an MU (mutual understanding) relationship."

The country's most eligible bachelor has always held his cards close to his chest. And that has only added to the mystique and allure of being political royalty. The youngest of the Araneta-Roxas brood is the grandson of Manuel A. Roxas, the first President of the Philippine Republic, and a founder of the Liberal Party. His maternal grandfather, Don Amado Araneta built the Araneta Coliseum and the Farmers' Market, and turned Cubao into a commercial hub.

Educated at the Ateneo de Manila University, Wharton School of Economics and the Kennedy School of Government in Harvard, Mar did not set out to be a politician.

Erstwhile Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, 'Mr. Palengke' and political royalty around these parts, is better known as the country's most eligible bachelor. He's also a single father, but that hasn't kept the women away

He was in the private sector when his older brother, Capiz Rep. Paolo "Dinggoy" Roxas, succumbed to cancer. Mar ran in Dinggoy's stead and won his first term in 1993. His appointment as Trade and Industry secretary1998, however, changed Mar's life.

"At DTI, I was dealing with real problems and finding solutions. In Congress, it was all theories," he says.

The child of privilege also found fulfilment visiting the markets and checking on the prices of the basic commodities, a throwback he says to his days as his *lolo* Amado's buddy as the latter made the rounds at the Farmers' Market. "I am familiar with the *palengke* (wet market) and the vendors," says this official who has gained the monicker "Mr. Palengke" for his frequent forays in the wet markets of the city.

But his *palengke*nomics, the campaign to clean up the markets and convert it back to a hub of fresh produce, inevitably turns into a matchmaking fest. "Where's Mrs. Palengke?" people ask him as if his monicker meant "marriage market."

"All the women in the market, *lahat sila* Mrs. Palengke (they're all Mrs. Wet Market)," Mar laughs. At other places, the men tell the womenfolk, "*Binata pa yan*! (hey, he's still single)," which might explain the clamor to shake his hand, get his autograph, pose for souvenir shots and, among the bolder girls, buss him on the cheeks. Even the gay vendors get into the act. "Papable!!" they swoon, using the swardspeak for scrumptious male.

Mar doesn't mind the very public intrusion into his lovelife. "I think its just *karinyo* (a show of affection) for me." But at home, he admits, nobody talks about his single state at his late age. "They've met all my girlfriends. They know me," he says. "You know, I don't think in terms of plus or minus," he adds. "This is who I am. I am not going to marry for convenience. I am going to marry for love."

Whoever the lucky woman is, she would have to take into account Mar's love child, 10-year-old Paolo Gerardo. "He is into swimming and loves science. And he is definitely better looking than his father. He's an improvement, a big improvement," gushes the proud father.

Despite the boy's low profile (for security reasons, he says), Mar denies that Paolo Gerardo was ever a secret. Two years ago, he talked about Paolo in a radio program on Father's Day. Late last year, however, blind items came out about a senatorial candidate who was actually a "*binatang ama*. (single father)." In a TV interview, Mar admitted he is a "single father."

The boy lives with his mother, and Mar gets to see him on certain occasions. Beyond that, he remains mum.

Still, marriage may just be on Mar's mind. Told about that phrase extolling single blessedness—"He runs fast who runs alone"—Mar replies: "But it can be lonely."

On the ride back from Laguna to Manila, Mar checked on missed calls on his cell phone. He dialed a number. "You called?" he asks. An unwitting eavesdropper insisted the voice on the other end was unmistakably K5's.

"Mr. Palengke" in action

ally hurts was he told people d things about me that were true.

Then I met Jarlath, the guy I ought would replace Mike. Jarth left me because a friend had ld him that I had another guy.

Here I am again, just out of e hospital after hurting myself hen I lost Jarlath. Joe, it hurts. ow I'm scared of falling in love. s hard facing my problem all one. Joe, please tell me what to . I asked God for a sign and He ve it to me. I really don't unerstand, Joe.

Sincerely yours,
Beverly

ear Beverly,

I know how much it hurts hen the people we love dede to throw us out of their ves. It is so painful sometimes at we just want to die. But no atter how battered our feelgs and our dignity have beome, that does not justify any t of self-inflicted pain or orse, suicide.

Beverly, most people realize at for others to learn to love em, they would have to learn love themselves first. But, there are some who realize this too late. People take into their hands the verdict of life and hastily end it because someone they sincerely loved had purposely hurt them. That doesn't prove anything. It doesn't really make a difference for those who don't care about us. We just become helpless victims of our own crimes.

Beverly, you have cried enough. Don't waste your tears anymore. The people you are shedding them for don't deserve it. Be strong and don't allow failure to take away your hope of finding happiness in your life. There is a reason why God allows these things to happen. They may be painful but they are all meant to make us stronger and better persons. There is life even after several failed relationships. There is hope even if all our efforts in finding the right person have failed. Be strong in your faith because good things come to those who believe and those who strive to be happy in spite of the pain they keep in their hearts.

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Actress Sharmaine Arnaiz's love of animals spurs her to stand up for their rights, and to espouse responsible pet ownership. It has also sent her back to school, where she's now studying to become a veterinarian

VICENTE CARREON

For A Cause

By Corazon A. Ong

Her Compassion for Creatures

ACTRESS Sharmaine Arnaiz once stood in the middle of Ortigas Avenue to stop traffic and save a stray kitten from being run over by cars. "I just finished a location shooting nearby and was on my way home when I saw this kitten. I had to get down from my car and do something," she recalls.

The stray, appropriately named Ortigas, was brought home and became part of Sharmaine's menagerie, which includes Apple, another cat, that she saved from abusive kids. "I was in Rockwell to treat my niece, Moira, to a movie. It was still early so we proceeded to the playground in the park. There I saw a couple of kids playing roughly with a kitten, whose nose was already bleeding. They would slide it down and bury it in the sand. By the looks of the kitten, it must have already been repeatedly subjected to the ordeal before we came."

Not one to simply watch a suffering animal, Sharmaine approached the children and told them that what they were doing was wrong. "Would you like the same thing to happen to you?" she asked them.

Apple, of course, would be adopted by Sharmaine, who is a softie when it comes to animals. "I have a passion for animals. I feel for them." The same passion would drive her to enroll in veterinary medicine at the Araneta University Foundation and vow to finish her course, come what may. She needs a year and a half more to become a full-fledged veterinarian but given her demanding career, it's not easy being a full-time student at the same time.

She has TV tapings every Thursday and Sunday and goes to school from Monday to Saturday. "The toughest part is having an overnight taping on a Sunday, because I still have to go to class the following day. One time, the taping ended at dawn. I reached home at about 6 am, took a bath, changed into my unform, then went straight to school to attend my Pharmacology class."

Sharmaine refuses any special treatment in school. "I could always ask to be excused but then, even when my professors say they understand my situation, I would still be on the losing end. They would still hold classes and the quiz would go on. I can't afford to be absent so I don't make any excuses."

Every Wednesday, she joins the Animal Welfare Club in their school and gives lectures to students in the grade school. "We introduce various pets and animals, including turtles and salamanders, to the kids, and at the end, there's an open forum where they can ask questions. You'd be surprised at the things they ask. The questions never stop."

Knowing the importance of teaching children at an early age how to love and take care of animals, Sharmaine and her colleagues at the vet school would like to tap the help of other schools in bringing similar lectures to grade school pupils in Metro Manila. The one-hour lecture promises to be both fun and educational, and Sharmaine's group wants to tap as many schools as possible.

A member of the Philippine Animal Welfare Society, Sharmaine, as much as her schedule warrants, helps in the society's activities, such as in the annual Halloween show and promotional campaigns on responsible pet ownership.

"Responsible pet ownership is something both parents and kids should take to heart. I would like to make an appeal to parents, especially those whose children were given pets as gifts last Christmas. Make sure that, if the kids don't like the pets, you take over the responsibility to take care of them. You're their only hope and happiness. God made us more intelligent than our pets so we can take care of them."

She's all for neutering or spaying pets so their offspring don't end up as strays. All her cats, for instance, are spayed. Sharmaine advises anyone who'd like to keep a pet to try to know more about the animal before he or she gets one. "Ask yourself these questions: Will you still like it after it has outgrown its puppyhood or kittenhood? Will you be able to take it for a walk? How about if the pet urinates on the carpet or scratches the sofa? Will you remember to take it to the vet for the annual shots and deworming schedule? The bottom line is, if you can't take care of the animal, be responsible enough to admit that you can't, and look for people who will."

Sharmaine remembers that even as a child, she was already an animal lover, thanks to her grandmother Dahlia Velasco, a science and chemistry teacher. "She was the one who taught me about animals. From her, I learned how to hold a cat properly, for example." Her *lola* kept many pets at home, including ducks. Sharmaine must have taken after her because she keeps on adopting pets one after the other.

One of her neighbors, for instance, won a pair of chicks in an office party, and the two chicks ended up with Sharmaine. "You should see them now. They're already grown up and are so lovely." In turn, Hilda Koronel, a co-star on one of her TV shows, gave her a pair of sugar gliders and two baby gliders, which used to belong to her son. (A sugar glider is a small gliding possum native to New Guinea, Tasmania and Australia).

"They are only allowed one pet in the condo unit, and since *Tita* Hilda's son already has a dog, she decided to give me the sugar gliders."

Apart from the sugar gliders, Sharmaine has a dog, five cats and two chickens in her Quezon City house. She also helps to feed and walk three dogs and one cat in her school that belong to one of her professors, Dr. Constantino. "Sometime in October, he suffered a stroke while doing surgery. He is kind-hearted, and people would come to the school clinic looking for him. He even gives his services free for animal volunteer work."

When she becomes a vet, Sharmaine hopes to follow in the footsteps of her professor. She plans to set up a program for indigent pet owners and to continue her mission of teaching people to become responsible pet owner and lovers.

But she dreads starting her surgery class this year. "Most of the animals used for surgery in school come from the Manila Dog Pound. They look pitiful. They're so thin you can see the ribs coming out. I don't want to see the animals dying. I don't want to open them up then stitch them up afterwards. They suffer a lot."

She also laments the fact that some students, after doing their surgery, do not bother to feed the animals kept in the school kennel. "It's a pity because after using them for surgery, the animals are left to fend for themselves."

This early, she envisions bringing home her surgery animals, including the goat she'll use for Surgery III. "When I use a goat for surgery, I think I'll end up bringing it home." She might eventually have to rent an apartment to keep her increasing number of animals.

Her passion and compassion for animals has rubbed off on her father, Sundar Shahani, who now regularly feeds the birds in four separate places in their community, including the parish church. Some parishioners who see her father surrounded by a flock of birds have dubbed him "St. Francis."

Apart from his daughter teaching him how to love animals, Shahani also credits Sharmaine for his long life. "Were it not for her, I would not have reached my 65th year. She takes good care of me." Her father has been a diabetic for 20 years now.

A caring hand and a caring heart, that's Sharmaine Arnaiz behind the camera. Q

First Person

By Maisie Faith J. Dagapioso

Coming Home to My Body

Illustration by STEPH BRAVO

IT is a warm night, the third day of the workshop. The scent from incense sticks covers the room. Candles are lit. Music is played. Martina invites the women to gather in the center, to breathe in deeply, slowly. To close their eyes and listen to the music. She tells them to respond to the music, to move their hands, their arms, their legs, now their whole body. She asks them to reach for the sky and the earth. To imagine themselves as fish swimming, as seeds pushing from the soil, reaching towards the sun. Focus. Listen. Flow. Let the music lead you. Let your body guide you.

I see women moving hesitantly, stiff, unsure of their movements, tense. I hear giggling, laughter, comments like "Ooo, I can't dance!" "I'm too fat for this." "My knees are clicking." "I can't reach my toes." "My joints are rusty." "This music is only for sexy women." I'm too stiff." "My back hurts." "I can't do this."

My organization, WomanHealth, conducts workshops on women and health. Most of us members love to dance, and dancing is very much a

To page 7

Art

Couple, Olan Ventura's solo exhibit focusing on the many aspects of relationship between a man and a woman, on view at the SM Megamall Art Center until Feb. 18. For details, call 687-7425.

Wandering in the Clouds, Arden Mopera's series of paintings on personal themes of distance and longing at the Upper Galleries of Boston Gallery, 72 Boston St., Cubao, QC until Feb. 18.

Objeto/Colombia features pieces from the four major geographical areas of Colombia at the Basement Galleries of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila until Feb. 19.

Benjie Torrado Cabrera showcases his latest engraving in **Images Recollected in Tranquility**, on view at The Drawing Room, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Avenue, Makati City until Feb. 21. For details, call 897-7877.

Wooden Barranquilla Carnival masks, part of "Objeto/Colombia" at the Metropolitan Museum

60 Years of Mars Ravelo: A Restrospective features objects from the Ravelo family collection such as original illustrations, memorabilia items and other materials inspired by the artist's creations, extended until Feb. 19 at The Edge Gallery, UP Vargas Museum, Diliman, QC.

Voyages in Blue, seascapes in oil by Jinky Lorenzo Reynoso, until Feb. 25 at Gallery 139, Level 3, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City.

Music

Get ready to fall under the grip of electronic pop as Alliance Francaise de Manille presents **ScheMatic Electronic Sessions** on Feb. 21 at the Republic of Malate with live performances from Frogpad with France's DJ Niko and the Philippines' mix experts, Rubber Inc and Flow-44. Doors open at 9 p.m. Admission is free.

Tonet Salcedo performs at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental Manila every Monday at 9 p.m. Salcedo will sing a variety of timeless songs with jazzy numbers accompanied by session musicians Romy Posadas on piano, Roger Herrera on fiddle bass, and Ramon Guevarra on percussion.

Sining Kumintang ng Batangas, one of the companies appearing in "*Sari-Saring Sayaw, Sama-Samang Galaw*" at the CCP

On Feb. 17, Tuesday Vargas will hold her first solo stand-up comedy concert ***Habulin Nyo Ako!*—Tuesday Vargas** at the Music Museum. The concert will also feature the comic antics of Bayani Agbayani, Long Mejia, Dagul, Ate Glow and Isko Moreno a.k.a. Brod Pete with the Hung-Hunks, among her special guests. For sponsorship and ticket reservations, text or call 0917-7931358.

Onstage

It's time for drama, dance and music as Repertory Philippines continues its staging of a refreshing new musical extravaganza, **Fame—The Musical**, at Onstage, Greenbelt 1 until March 7. The production boasts of catchy melodies and energetic production numbers as performed by Ralion Alonzo, Amparo Sietereales, Charlie Barredo, Crisel Consunji, Shiela Valderrama and many others. For tickets, call 887-0710.

The National Parks and Development Committee and the Gantimpala Theater Foundation celebrate the National Arts Month with the staging of National Artists Severino Montano's **Parting at Calamba** and Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero's **Wanted: A Chaperone** on Feb. 22, 6 p.m. at the Concert at the Park Auditorium, Luneta, Manila. The twinbill production is open to the public.

Leading Filipino folk dance companies will showcase theatrical interpretations and influences in Philippine dance and music in ***Sari-Saring Sayaw, Sama-Samang Galaw*** on Feb. 20 at 8 p.m., Feb. 21 and 22 at 3 p.m. at the CCP Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo. For tickets, call 832-1125 loc. 1602-1603.

Atbp

Polytechnic University of the Philippines' College of Communication, Dept. of Journalism with the cooperation of the local government of Marikina will conduct an **anti-drug campaign** on Feb. 15-21 at Barangay Parang, Marikina with the theme *"Mamamayan: Magkaisa, Magsama-sama Kontra Droga! Droga Ayaw ng Parang N'yan."* A motorcade will be held followed by a marathon, an exhibit, essay, poster and slogan-making, free film showing and a seminar.

The Center for Health and Creative Arts invites everyone to a **lecture-forum on Divorce: Illness, Healing, or Destiny**, conducted by visiting social work counselor and pastor, Julian Sleigh, at the Conference Room 3, ISO complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, QC on Feb. 19, 6 to 8:30 p.m. For details contact 434-5381 or 0919-7405791 or chacracenter@yahoo.com.

The Cultural Center of the Philippines, in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Film Development Council of the Philippines, will hold its first **Arts Congress** on Feb. 19, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Tanghalang Francisco Balagtas. Dubbed as "Kilos Kultura para sa Kinabukasan," the event will gather various artists, cultural workers, art managers, researchers, scholars, art educators, students and other practitioners from government and non government organizations from all over the country. It is aimed to set medium-term goals for the art and culture sector and determine areas of cooperation among government and non government institutions. For details, call 832-3875.

The Lopez Memorial Museum will hold an **Advanced Chinese Painting Workshop** for four Saturdays (Feb. 21, 28, March 13 and 20) at the Rizaliana Room from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Prof. Arnold Esguerra will teach the intricacies of depicting animal and plant forms in the tradition of the Chinese masters. For inquiries, call Fanny at 631-2417 or 449-2355.

The **Strategic Business Economics Program** of the UA&P School of Management and School of Economics invites all its past alumni to the 2nd **grand alumni homecoming and golf tournament** on Feb. 20. The golf tournament will be held at the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club in Laguna while the homecoming dinner will be at the main function hall of the Philippine Army Officers' Club, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City. For registration, call 637-0912 to 26 loc. 222, or 634-2820.

For this week's bands and schedules call:
- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

"Flora" by Benjie Torrado Cabrera, on exhibit at The Drawing Room

Italianni's Restaurant is holding a **Wine All You Can promotion** daily from 6 to 10 p.m. at Italianni's Greenbelt 2. Guests can have all the wine that they want for only P295 perfect for the restaurant's varied Italian-American cuisine. Italianni's also has branches at Glorietta 4, Corte delas Palmas of Alabang Town Center and SM City Bicutan.

Corban Daycare and Tutorial Center is holding **Easy English classes** every Tuesday and Thursday, 2 to 3:30 p.m. at 6F, MB Aguirre Building, President's Avenue cor. Elizalde Street. The sessions are geared to college students and adults who would like to improve their speaking, pronunciation, grammar and writing. Cost is P3,000 for 20 sessions. Interested parties may call 809-3050 or 842-6665.

Powerbooks Specialty Store opens its flagship store at the 2/L of Greenbelt 4, Makati City. If you're on the lookout for a particular book, there is the Powerbooks special order service. Other services include book reservations, free delivery, gift certificates, institutional accounts, bridal and birthday registry, and the Powerbooks discount card called the Powercard. For inquiries, call the customer service hotline at 757-6428/29 or email ibid@powerbooks.com.ph.

Adarna House invites all young writers from 11 to 18 years old to join the **Slam Teen Romance Love Story Writing Contest**. Every purchase of "Una and Miguel" or "All the Right Moves" entitles you to send your entry to Adarna House (Room 102 JGS Bldg., #30 Scout Tuason St., Brgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City) or e-mail to marketing@adarna.com.ph for a chance to win P5,000 in cash. Contest runs until March 15. For inquiries, call 372-3548 and look for Aneka or see posters for details.

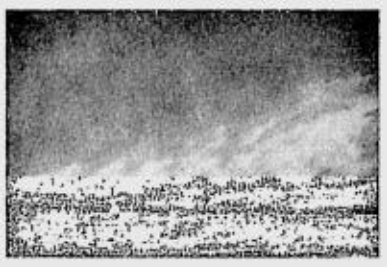
Dansa Studio will be having its **dance workshop**, "Rock Your World," for children and adults. Classes include jazz, fusion, streetdance, breakdance, ballroom and ballet. Located at the 4/F, Manna II Building, 33 V. Luna Avenue, Brgy. Pinyahan, Quezon City. For reservations, call 436-6175 or text 0917-9868822.

Repertory Philippines stages "Fame—The Musical" at Onstage

Power Cup, an inter-collegiate bowling and billiards tournament organized by the UP Economics Society, will be held on March 7, starting at 9 a.m. at Powerbowl, 4th Level, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Complex. Amateur, non-varsity college students may form groups of six for bowling and pairs for billiards. They must also submit a photocopy of their school IDs or any proof of enrollment and pay a team registration fee of P600 for bowling and P200 for billiards. Deadline for registration is March 1. For inquiries, contact UP Ecosoc at 0917-8105976.

A **scriptwriting seminar** is slated for Feb. 28, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 19 Hidalgo St., San Lorenzo Village to be conducted by Nenette Pacoli. Seminar fee is P2,500 inclusive of lunch, snacks and handouts. For details, call Vinecom at 842-6665 or 809-3050.

Graduates of **Kamuning Elementary School** will hold their second **grand alumni homecoming** on March 27, 4 p.m., at the KES Campus, Scout Torillo, Diliman, QC to be hosted by Batch 64. For details, contact Corky Navea-Cano at 434-2057, 925-7174 or 0917-8437161.



"Bring Me My Horizon" by Jinky Lorenzo Reynoso, on view at Gallery 139

X-manila

The **Third Pipe Organ Concert** of the San Sebastian Cathedral in Lipa City will be held on Feb. 20, 7 p.m. Featured organist is Fr. Johann Trummer, an Austrian priest, who performs regularly at the Las Piñas Bamboo Organ Festival. Song numbers will be rendered by the San Sebastian Cathedral Youth Choir. The concert will also be an occasion for the recognition of the church choirs serving at the Cathedral and barangay chapels of the San Sebastian Parish. Admission is free, but donations for the San Sebastian Cathedral Pipe Organ Foundation will be deeply appreciated. For seat reservations, call (043) 981-1160 or (043) 756-2142 loc. 01, or (043) 756-5590.

By Jess Abrera

Pangako ng Pag-ibig

Coming ...from page 6

What moves me as I dance? Knowing that I can create my own dance, my own space in a world that allows almost no space for self-expression. I dance because I'm happy or sad. I dance to remember. I dance to celebrate

part of every workshop we organize. On the first night of the workshop, we have a welcome dance to celebrate the gathering together of women.

On those nights, most of the women would sit at the edge of the room, just watching. They feel that dancing isn't for them. In a culture that emphasizes skills, talent and body, as prerequisites to dancing, it is not surprising that most people would find dancing an intimidating experience.

Dance is a medium we use in sessions on body awareness with women from different groups and various ages. Earlier experiences have shown us that women's perceptions of their bodies affect the way they relate with, and care for, themselves.

Our aim is to give space for women, through dance, to surface, explore and confront feelings they have about their bodies and themselves. The participants are guided through the session like the one described above.

"Maskipaps," an abbreviation of the Filipino term, "*maski papaano*" which literally means "any which way," is the general rule. A woman moves whichever way she wants to; she dances guided by the music and by what she feels.

Martina stops talking. The women continue to move, to dance. I see them relax, move, create their own steps, become more confident. Eyebrows no longer knitted, they smile. Some have opened their eyes, some have chosen partners to dance with, touching, moving together, moving apart. The women turn, weave in and out of other women, arms moving up, moving down. One woman touches her belly, another touches her breasts, another, her lower back. Some have tears in their eyes. The women form a circle, and they take turns dancing in the center, encouraged by the others. No two women have the same dance. Each woman is dancing her own dance, the dance she has created for herself.

Moving their bodies, the women were first confronted with the discomfort and embarrassment they felt about having to dance in front of others. What encouraged them to continue, to "take the plunge" was the knowledge that everybody else was feeling the same way. They were among kindred spirits, they felt safe.

By dancing, the women came into contact with parts of themselves that were in pain: the lower back, the shoulders, the belly, the arm. It is pain they have ignored because "you just don't think about it, you can't afford to get sick."

Dancing made them remember that their bodies ache, and that they should learn to acknowledge how their body is telling them they are doing too much. "We should dance more often."

What moves me as I dance? The realization that I can create my own dance, my own space in a world that allows almost no space for self-expression. I dance because I'm happy or sad. I dance to remember. I dance to celebrate.

Dance is something that I can do. By dancing, I am telling myself that I am a creative person. Dancing with others is an affirmation that we are all creative and our collective creativity will breed itself even as we give each other energy. Every time I dance, I dance not only for myself, but for, and with, other women as well.

It is the last night of the workshop. Candles are lit, the scent of incense fills the room. There is music playing, women dancing. This time, there is no stopping them. They have embarked on a journey to come home to their bodies, to come home to themselves. *(Women's Feature Service)*

Celebrities

By Tinna S. Bonifacio

Sharon's Man

JESS YUSON

A FRIEND once told Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan that his life with Sharon Cuneta was "a private life vested with public interest."

And how. From their courtship to their marriage, from Sharon's two miscarriages to the birth of their daughter Frankie (short for Francesca Simone Emmanuelle), everyone laughed and cried with them. Now, the entire country is on tenterhooks waiting to see how Sharon's latest pregnancy will turn out, and whether their baby will be a boy or a girl.

But no one can possibly be more excited than Pangilinan himself. The youngest Senate Majority Floor Leader since 1986 (senator-turned-vice-presidential bet Loren Legarda was 41 when she assumed the position; Pangilinan is 40), he says he's gotten used to the attention that comes with being the better half of the country's most-loved showbiz personality.

Pangilinan and Sharon have been married for eight years; before that, they had been dating for two, so they've known each other for 10 years. They met at the 1993 wedding of his brother Anthony to Maricel Laxa. "We met near the rest room," laughs the senator. "She was on her way out, and I was on my way in." After the wedding, Pangilinan gave her a call, and soon, they started dating. On April 28, 1996, they were married.

Happy with Sharon and Frankie PDI File

From the day that they went steady, their relationship has had its moments. One that Pangilinan remembers is when they went to Subic for a taping of "The Sharon Cuneta Show." This was just two days after they had decided to go steady. "We were shopping at the Duty Free in Subic, and some of her fans started chasing us!" According to an account of the incident on Sharon's website (www.sharoncuneta.com), even the cashiers abandoned their registers to run after her. Sharon and Pangilinan had to duck into an empty guest room to hide. The room had a big plate-glass window, making the poor couple feel like "goldfish in an aquarium." Despite it all, swears Pangilinan, he wouldn't trade this relationship for the world.

Although people make a big deal of his being married to the Megastar, Pangilinan says theirs is just like any other marriage. They have the same problems and concerns as other married couples. The only difference is that because both of them are in the public eye, everything is magnified, even (and especially) the rumors about them.

When their marriage was said to be on the rocks last year and that Sharon had left their Wack Wack home, it took on the proportions of a national issue. Everyone—from tricycle drivers to market vendors to working professionals—wanted to know: Are Sharon and Pangilinan really breaking up? Is showbiz's perfect marriage not so perfect after all?

Pangilinan will be the first to admit that contrary to what people may think, their marriage is not perfect. "I guess the rumors come with the territory," he says. "Fortunately, we've been able to overcome them. Sharon and I have always believed that what doesn't kill us makes us stronger."

After 10 years, says Pangilinan, he and Sharon are "still madly in love with one another." The rumors haven't derailed them one bit. Sharon is now carrying their second child, and while they're not out of the woods yet (because of her two previous miscarriages, they have to be extra-cautious), everything seems to be going well. It's something both he and Sharon worked hard to achieve. "From day one, I was really more concerned about having a happy marriage and a strong family foundation than anything else," he says. "That was the focus. I was not really too affected by everything else that came with her being who she is. My concern was, I wanted her to be the mother of my children and my partner for life."

Wasn't he even a bit daunted by the fact that he was marrying Sharon Cuneta? "Maybe in the beginning, in the sense that I was afraid the other things—the fame, the wealth—would get in the way of our being able to achieve a solid married life. The good thing was that Sharon also wanted that. We both wanted it. Both of us really valued a strong marriage and family fidelity—for both of us that was the bottom line. Everything else was just secondary."

Eight years after marrying Sharon Cuneta and officially becoming Mr. Megastar, Sen. Kiko Pangilinan is making his own mark in the Senate. Now he's looking forward to more challenges on the job—and becoming a father all over again

For Sharon and Pangilinan, the key to building a strong marriage is constant communication. Of course, Pangilinan admits that it isn't so easy with a wife in showbusiness and a husband in politics. Especially since Pangilinan was appointed Majority Floor Leader, they have to really sit down and make time for each other. "Sometimes all we do is just share what happened with our day," says Pangilinan. "It's a way of ensuring that we stay connected to each other. It's not easy, especially these two years that I've been in politics, which has been an added stress and strain on the marriage, then Sharon did three movies last year (*"Walang Kapalit"* with Richard Gomez, *"Kung Ako Na Lang Sana"* opposite Aga Muhlach and the Metro Manila Film Festival entry "Crying Ladies"). We were both busy, and that caused us to have our share of misunderstandings. No relationship is free of domestic problems. We're no exception," says the senator. "We've had our ups and downs. We just have to keep working at the marriage. We'll fight tooth and nail to keep it that way."

What made it especially hard in the beginning was that Pangilinan was adjusting to work as a first-term senator. "We both were busy, but I was going through my own major adjustment because I was entering the Senate for the first time," recalls Pangilinan. "I was affected by the work and the atmosphere in the Senate. It was acrimonious, and I carried that home. It was really difficult to adjust, especially during the first quarter."

As the Majority Floor Leader, Pangilinan is basically the Senate's gatekeeper. He calendars the bills for discussion, although he also takes care of other measures, like the Anti-Money Laundering Act which was his "baptism of fire" as a senator.

Some people have suggested that Pangilinan's appointment to the position may be indicative of higher political plans. But right now, Pangilinan is just focused on the job before him. "There's a job, and I have to do it," he says. "It's interesting, because every day at the Senate is a new arena of battle."

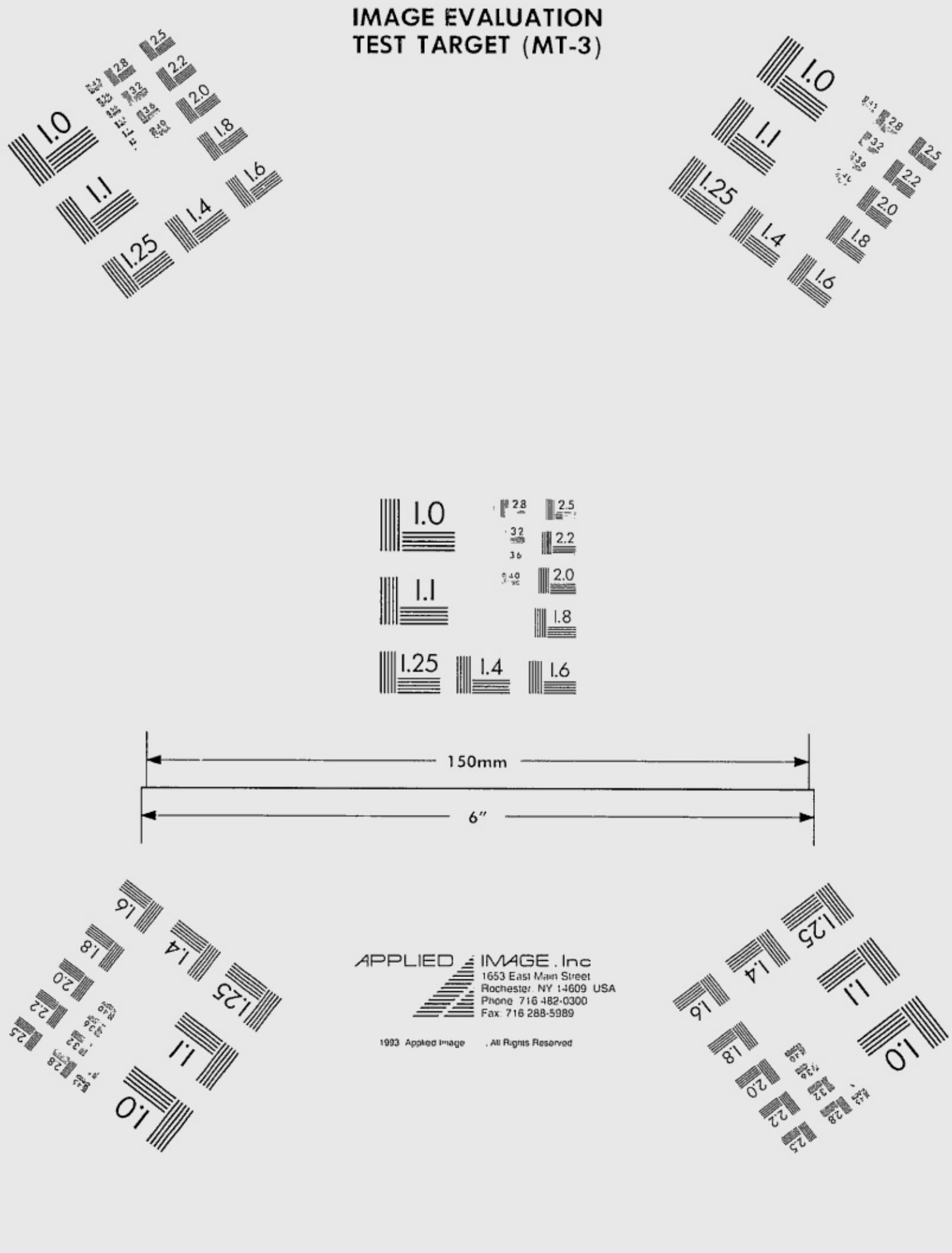
Having been a senator for two years, Pangilinan is now better-adjusted, which has lessened the pressure on his marriage. Right now, they are eagerly looking forward to the birth of what will hopefully be their first son. Friends and family believe the child will be a boy, because Sharon this time around is more moody and irritable unlike when she was pregnant with Frankie when she was more, in Pangilinan's words, "happy and joyful." It's funny, he says. "She says she doesn't want to see me, so when I'm at home, I stay downstairs. But then she'll call me and look for me, so most of the time I just grin and bear it. It's a cat and mouse thing," laughs Pangilinan.

To cope, he looks at the big picture. "I've always loved kids," he says. "I came from a big family. There were nine of us brothers and sisters (including Angeli Pangilinan-Valenciano, wife of Gary, and Anthony, husband of Maricel Laxa), so if this is the price I have to pay, *sige na nga."*

Both the Cuneta and Pangilinan families are excited over the pregnancy, even if Sharon has to take it easy. "Frankie is really happy, because she's going to be an *ate* (elder sister)," quips Pangilinan. "We're very happy, especially since *maselan si Sharon magbuntis.* (Sharon always has delicate pregnancies.) She continues to be on medication. Practically every day she needs an injection."

Sharon wants a boy after two daughters. To Pangilinan, it doesn't really matter. What would they name the child if it does turn out to be a boy? "*Sabi ni* Sharon, she wants strong names, especially if it's a boy. So I suggested, why not go for the strongest name in the Bible—let's call him Goliath!"

Laughter. It's probably the secret behind one of showbiz's most enduring love stories.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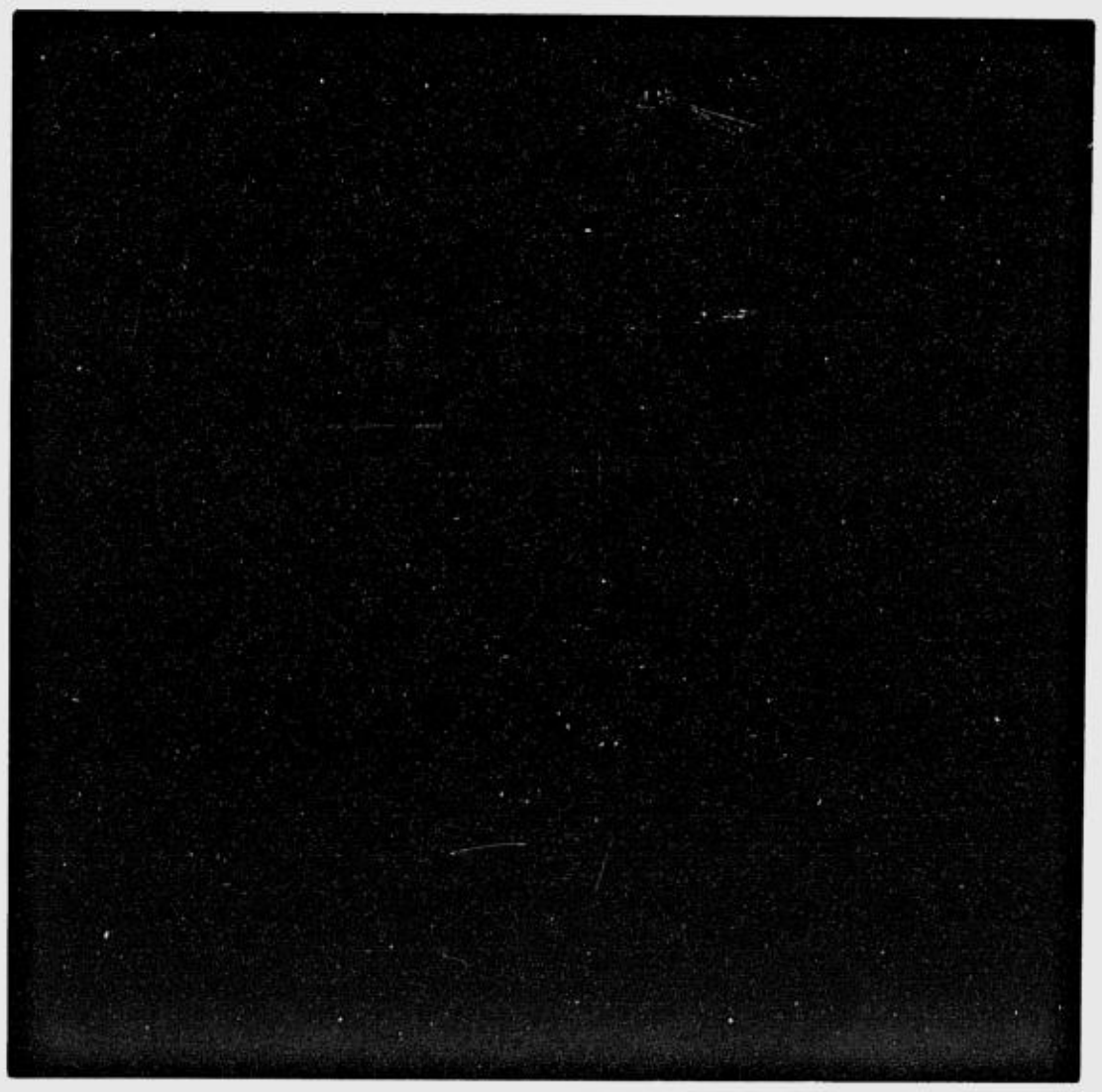

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